

trinity
Lutheran Church

115 N. Fourth Street
Box 339
Stillwater, MN 55082
651-439-7400

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TRINITY TODAY

love.transform.serve.



Dreams
Aloft:
Pastor
Candee
Says
Goodbye
see story on page 8.

PASTOR DAN
POFFENBERGER



By Dan Poffenberger

I try really hard to be perfect. Well, at least I try to be pretty good. Admitting my shortcomings and failures is not an easy thing for me. Closely associated with this is my stunning lack of desire to ask for help. My biography, read in a certain way, would be a study in the repeated lessons learned from stubborn independence and tendency to say “I got it.” Sound familiar to you? I think it’s probably a common human trait, especially in our culture. We hide our mistakes, hoping no one notices. We are sometimes paralyzed by our fear to make an error, missing all sorts of opportunities to take a chance, experience something new, or go off on some adventure.

Google the term *Wabi-Sabi*: It’s the Japanese concept of finding beauty in things imperfect. Whenever I’m feeling less than perfect, I try to remind myself that my beauty is in my imperfections.

I think there is a similar philosophy in knitting and weaving. In fact, in some Native American cultures, the artist intentionally makes at least one mistake in each thing he or she weaves, as a way of recognizing the imperfection in humanity.

Jesus seemed to have an understanding about our brokenness and our shortcomings, as well. First, he was unafraid of someone who was clearly broken, and quite willing to just go ahead and touch that broken place. It never seemed, however, that what

Jesus was after was perfection (see the collection of apostles), but restoration of relationship. What seemed to matter was that by healing, liberating and embracing the broken person, what Jesus was always accomplishing was a restoration of relationship, not a return to some perfect ideal. Jesus knew that our brokenness was most costly and painful when it led to separation — from our community, from God and even from our self. His healing wasn’t some reaction to the brokenness per se, but was a way to bring a person back to full communion with neighbor, self and God.

You and I know this as well, don’t we? The brokenness itself is never the truly awful thing; what is truly awful is the alienation it can bring with it: a division in a person, a community, or a break from a whole relationship with God. The alienation is magnified because the only antidote — reconciliation — is so hard for us to offer to one another.

We are reluctant to show our brokenness to one another, which stymies reconciliation. We are reluctant to take our eyes off of the other’s brokenness, and get stuck blaming and shaming. I get stuck in that place, and I bet you do, too.

The Way of Jesus offers us the way out. Jesus shows us the power of forgiveness and grace: its limitless power restores, reconciles and brings about new and deeper relationships. It is a way that

seems difficult: we have to give up our pride, our guilt, our desire to blame. Yet, it is the only way through our brokenness — broken relationships, broken community, broken relationship with God.

I also have found that our scars — the wounds healed but visible — are a special kind of beauty. They remind us of the potential to heal, the journey of restoration once traveled, which gives us hope when we are again broken. Scars demand a certain adjustment — limps, if you will: new ways of doing life; new ways of looking at reality. We see life from a new perspective, and can find beauty in our new reality. Scars can become friends, and they certainly will be part of our story. We can choose to let them remain tragic, or we can let them become beautiful. Prayer, spiritual practice, and openness to the Spirit helps with such transformation.

Finally, brokenness that has been healed, and the scars that remain, make us accessible and helpful to others. I will show you my scar, if you show me yours. They give us stories of reconciliation, miracle and hope. They are Good Friday and Easter Sunday all rolled into one.

Blessings to us all as we admit our brokenness and welcome our scars.

A CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

By Carol Carver

If you have ever been a part of one of those exercises in which the leader says something like “everyone who has done [fill-in-the-blank], please stand up” — and the exercise goes on until everyone is standing — that could be this message. Because, to produce a beautiful, meaningful and seamless Christmas Eve, it takes many more people than one could possibly imagine.

In an attempt to thank all those involved, I write this!

To all those who gave donations for the garden/flowers/décor — thank you. I hope you were pleased with the results. We try to surprise and delight you through the visual aspects of worship and throughout the church.

To all those in the Fine Arts group who took those funds and turned them into something beautiful: thank you for your time, talent and good humor. A special thank you to Dave Beaudet who, all on his own, “created” the outdoor tree on 4th Street, and also to Christian Brekke for building the manger.

To our lighting designer:

Doug Wightman: your care in creating atmosphere brings much pleasure to all members and visitors alike. You make it feel like we are “there”. Thank you.

To all the singers:

from the youngest children to the not-so-young adults — you add beauty and meaning to worship. For many, you are why they come to church. Thank you for the hours you spent in preparation. And a special thank you to all of the directors for guidance, expertise, encouragement and coaching.

To our instrumental trio, cello, violin, and piano:

you were the perfect soundtrack to worship. You brought tears on “Away in a Manger” and smiles on “Once in Royal David’s City.” To our trumpets and organist: you spoke with beauty of the glory of the occasion.

To those who arranged for communion servers, set up communion and served communion: thank you for doing this, even on Christmas.

To the tech guys in the back:

great job! Not a ripple in the stream!

To ushers and greeters:

you are the face of Trinity. You made us look very good and made our welcome sincere. To Zanny, who so gracefully cares for all of you, thank you.

To our pastors:

for your leadership, your message and your presence, know that we look to you as our inspiration in our journey and thank you for giving us words to live by.

To our young readers:

thank you for sharing your gifts in worship.

To our graphic design and communications team, Amy and Kim, for so carefully crafting screen and print materials with accuracy and beauty: know that it makes a difference.

To our custodians:

we don’t say it enough — thank you! We appreciate the pride you take in keeping Trinity in beautiful shape.

To “the Leroy’s,”

who care for everything and anything: thank you for your time and assistance in preparing the Worship Center for everyone who might want to attend. And to the sacristy group, who slip in weekly to clean and straighten: thank you for preparing the Worship Center for us.

Oh my, I hope I haven’t forgotten anyone! As you can see, it takes a huge team to do this.

Finally, thank to my Co-Director of Worship, Phil Kadidlo: it is a joy and a pleasure.

Thank you.



Trade in Your Timex for a Bag of Balloons

By Spike Carlsen



When you go to Tanzania, trade in your Timex for a bag of balloons. The balloons are infinitely more useful and you'll never regret the decision.

When you trade in your watch for balloons you can sit on the steps of a guesthouse in remote Bomalongombe, laughing while you make balloon animals with three-dozen children. It means you can teach one another: Mbwa means dog, pua means nose, mbili means two. Their presence means they trust a stranger traveling in their midst.

Your watch will only make you anxious about the graduation slated for 10 a.m. that starts at 1:15 p.m. Your watch will make you forget it's more important to have tea and connect with old and new friends than to stick to a schedule that makes you hurry and scurry — so you can hurry and scurry some more.

Balloons let you give something new and mysterious to a one year old — and to learn about parenting in return. My grimace says, "I fear your child will get an unpleasant surprising in biting this balloon." The mother's smile says, "Yes. And that way my child will learn it's not a good idea to bite a balloon." It makes me think we no longer let our children bite balloons: we hesitate when it comes to letting them, regardless of age, learn about the natural consequences in life. We take away balloons, fearing the "pop" will scare or scar them.

Balloons grant you passage to the back of a village church, where the choir is practicing hymns — songs where the words are different but the melody is the same. Balloons help you realize that music and faith link us together though we live half a world away. Balloons make a mother trust you enough to let her two-year old sleep in your arms while you listen to her sing in the choir. Balloons make you realize, if the tables were turned, you might not feel the same trust.



Balloons help you cheer on the blind youth choir singing to welcome you. Balloons help you celebrate the 103 students graduating from school, heading into a world in which opportunities are slim compared with ours. Balloons help you contain the joy you feel in seeing a four year old walk for the first time under her own power. Balloons make the work of building bunk beds for 100 students a little lighter.

Balloons help you realize the nine people you're traveling with for two weeks are all kids at heart. Balloons make me realize how incredibly lucky I am to have a fearless, loving wife by my side as we travel.

Balloons allow you to give away something to kids who aren't given much; to add a splash of color to a life that can be dusty and dry. Balloons are hugs and hope. And when they sail away, you realize hope is a fragile thing.



When you trade in your Timex for balloons you trade in your anxiety — Am I going to lose it? Scratch it? Gum up the mechanism? It allows you to exchange something made of steel for something truly enduring — memories that can only be had by living.

A balloon allows you to leave a part of yourself — your very breath — in Tanzania. Fitting for a country that takes your breath away.

Missions: Connecting with Community

By Tom Thiets



1st Annual Trinity Mission Alumni Association Winter Social & Recognition Event

January 26, 2014 • 5-8 p.m.

Pub 112 – upstairs lounge
112 Main Street North, Stillwater

TMAA members will be recognized at this event. Appetizers and beverages will be included. Cash bar. \$10 per attendee at door. Casual dress. *Please RSVP via email to Jill Longnecker at jnlongy@msn.com.*

Community Meal Packing Event – Get Ready to Pack Some Meals

February 15-22, 2014

Sign up today for a volunteer spot! For two hours of your time and a minimum \$20 donation, you can fight hunger locally and globally. *To register for your spot, call Chuck or Joan Newman at 651-436-8609. For more event information, call Tom Thiets at 651-788-5112.*

Community is a wonderful piece of life that I cherish. It is available at a variety of levels: we experience it as the bonds of friendship with neighbors; as a source of pride in one's hometown or home-state; as a nation; or being tied to your ancestral roots. It is somewhere in that hard-to-describe sense of belonging and connectedness within a community that generates an acceptance of one another that can span our differences. It is not that these differences are whitewashed and ignored; rather, hearts and minds are opened to respect the views of others.

As I read the newspaper or watch a news program and see the stories about the divisions that separate us from one another, I can't help but ask, "Has something changed?" These are stories of anger and disagreement between community leaders, family members, neighbors, and co-workers that seem to separate people into groups that only tolerate those of like-minded understandings.

Are we that much more divisive now than we were 30, 40, or 50 years ago? I don't believe so. As technology improves, we always have to adapt and refine our interaction with it.

Currently, the news of the day arrives 24/7. Each day in our quest for knowledge, we are repeatedly bombarded with images and opinion that instead of broadening our perspective tend to narrow our edges of acceptance. The progress of technology is a blessing that can also inject some unintended consequences into our lives. Technology provides us the opportunity to live life at a faster and faster pace in which we find ourselves in a state of constant connectedness that can overwhelm our ability to process while not allowing quiet time for reflection.

Life before these many technological advances was different. While I fully embrace and utilize our access to information, I also mourn the loss of the slower pace that allowed people the space to process the events of the day through conversation and prayer.

I was raised in a neighborhood on St. Paul's east side that included a mix of families who each worked hard to carve out their niche in the community — most of them watching the pennies as the final days of the month arrived. These were families tied together in the common desire of raising children to embrace personal responsibility while also being good citizens willing to serve the broader community. The news of the day was processed over the back fence. I have fond memories of my parents chatting with neighbors about the current affairs of the day. Cities across our nation were burning as protests raged, yet folks with varying opinions still gathered to share a BBQ and beer. Folks in the neighborhood supported the different political leaders of the day, and approached issues from different angles with dissimilar intentions, yet there was still space around the picnic table for all voices.

I find that the experience of serving on a mission trip can create similar open time in our lives. The experience of connecting to the people and community through service begs for us to unplug from the stream of information in order to recognize the face of the person standing before us. In saying yes to serving others, we are also inviting others into our lives and into our community. So no matter where you find yourself, take some time to unplug from the barrage of information in order to fully connect with those around you.

Peace, Tom Thiets

L I F E L O N G - L E A R N I N G

D I S C O U R S E : D I S C O V E R I N G Y O U R I N N E R T H E O L O G I A N

By Allison Siburg

Have questions about God ever popped into your head? Have you ever talked about God and realized you're not sure how God works in the world?

Well, if you have, then you're a theologian. You have thoughts, questions, doubts, and "ah-ha" moments about God.

Over the last few years, people at Trinity have wrestled with their questions about God in a Lifelong Learning class called Building your Personal Theology. In February, we'll be offering the class on Tuesday evenings, but under a new name: Discourse

We've renamed the class to describe its core purpose more clearly: a small group of people in a discourse with one another, talking in a safe and welcoming space about their faith journeys and questions about God.

Our previous Lifelong Learning pastor, Siri Erickson, came to Trinity ten years ago with the idea that everyone, theologically-trained or not, has thoughts, questions, and doubts about God. She believed it was important to encourage everyone in the congregation to embrace the identity and practices of being theologians in community. So, she collaborated with staff and leaders alike to create a congregational process of clarifying and articulating what this particular faith community emphasizes about the core ideas of Christianity. This work inspired her to create the same opportunity for individuals to discuss and articulate their personal theologies. That opportunity became Building Your Personal Theology.

Today, we feel called to continue this lifelong learning experience here at Trinity, as well as to share it with other faith communities. The core practice of the Discourse experience is people coming together in a welcoming and safe context to compassionately listen, share their experiences of God, and discover their theological voices.

It has been so fulfilling to continue this project of empowering people to see themselves as theologians. Lifelong Learning Pastor Stephanie Vos and I are excited to keep the energy alive for this lifelong learning offering! There are countless people who have created, shaped, and encouraged this effort into something truly unique and beautiful. Thank you staff and non-staff theologians at Trinity who have shaped —and who continue to shape— this class into what it is today.

Pastor Dan, Stephanie and I would be thrilled to see you in the next Discourse class. For more information, please contact me at asiburg@trinitylc.org.

Take a tour of the Discourse class at DiscourSeseries.org and follow us on Twitter and Instagram: [@discourseseries](https://twitter.com/discourseseries)

DISCOVER : DISTILL : DISPLAY : DISCUSS

discourse

DISCOVERING
YOUR
THEOLOGICAL
VOICE:

GOD



C L A S S E S

Science and Religion Great Course

*Sundays through Feb. 16,
10:30-11:30 a.m. – Living Room*
Professor Lawrence M. Principe,
Professor of the History of Science,
Medicine, and Technology and
Professor of Chemistry at The John
Hopkins University, will be our
guide through this Great Course.
No prior scientific knowledge is
required; a curiosity to learn is all
you need to join in this important
conversation.

Revelation Bible Study

*Sundays through Feb. 16,
9:30-10:30 a.m. – Room 108B*
Combat the winter doldrums by
reading the strangest book of the
bible: Revelation. Is it a dream,
a nightmare, or a vision? We'll delve
into Greek and Hebrew texts, using
*Revelation and the End of All
Things* by Craig Koester, a professor
at Luther Seminary, as our guide.
Please bring your own Bible; we will
have copies of Dr. Koester's book
for sale. *For more information, please
call Carol Taves at 651-351-5339.*

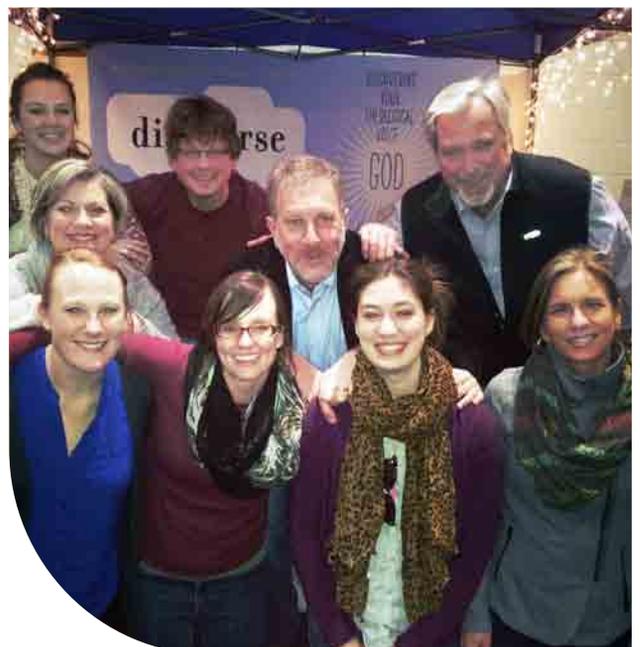
Discourse: God

*Feb. 4, 11, 18, & 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Living Room*
\$30/person; \$40/couple
Building your Personal Theology
has become Discourse! Same content
and class, just a different name and
look! Join us for our February
Tuesday evenings class. *For more
information contact Allison Siburg at
asiburg@trinitylc.org.*



Christianity 21: Trinity Takes on Denver

Ten members of Trinity's staff traveled to Denver Jan. 9-11 for Christianity 21, an ecumenical conference that celebrates progressive Christianity. Staff members listened to numerous talks about the "big ideas" in Christianity today — one of which was given by our very own CYF Director Jody Nyenhuis, who spoke about the great things we're doing here at Trinity. Trinity also had a large booth in the exhibit hall to invite churches to try our Discourse series (that's the renamed "Building Your Personal Theology" program). Pastors and education directors from churches throughout the country approached us with questions about the program; many signed up to try it. All in all, the conference energized the team and filled everyone with great ideas to bring to the congregation throughout the year.



Farewell to the Congregation

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." – John 14:27a

Dear Friends,

As I search for the "right" words for this letter, the scripture quoted above continues to echo in my mind and heart. And as much as I pray for God's peace to fill my own heart, I pray it even more for all of you.

Peace comes, I believe, when we turn all of our cares and worries over to the One God who, out of love created us, died for us and has promised to be with us forever. Peace comes when we can say, "Not my will but Your will be done." Peace comes when we can let go, knowing not what the future holds but rather, and most importantly, Who holds us. It is this peace, God's peace, that I pray transforms us now and in the days to come.

A card given to me reads, "Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive." Each of you whom I've come to know, has enriched my life in so many ways. Whether in worship, while serving, learning or in prayer, we have found ways to connect and grow. We shared tears, fears, laughter and joy as we discovered meaning and purpose in our ministries together. I will forever be blessed and changed for the better because our paths have crossed.

What does my future hold? Only God knows the answer to that question. I do know that wherever I go and in whatever capacity I serve, a part of you will accompany me. And so with gratitude and love, I heartily thank you for stepping out in faith to walk a bit of this journey together. I leave you with a prayer from the Lutheran Book of Worship – one that reassures and encourages me as I hope and pray it also does for you. To God be the Glory!

*Love and peace,
Pastor Candee*

Goodbye Pastor Candee...



The thing about butterflies is that they are so unassuming.

You never hear them coming, but when you spot one, every part of you stops to watch, because you know it's an honor to see something so purely beautiful and graceful in action.

So it is with Pastor Candee.

After two-and-a-half years, Trinity's care pastor is spreading her wings to fly into her next ministry — but she leaves Trinity better for having been here. Through her dedication, we now have an active BeFriends Ministry, which trains lay members of the congregation to be supportive listeners to assist people on their spiritual journeys.

"She modeled such a passion for her caring ministry," says Norma Wilson, one of the BeFriends. "In our training sessions, she just had that innate ability to develop the strengths in each of us so that we in turn could support others — It is an unusual ability to take a group of people who have never worked together and form us into a group who loves and cares for each other, as well as others."

Pastor Candee's insight may be a result of her background as a nurse, says Lois Berglund, who served on Pastor Candee's Call Committee and also worked with her in the Healing Touch group.

"I think her background being a nurse means she is able to assess situations better than a non-medic could," Berglund says. "I learned so much from her about caregiving and grieving — under all of that compassion, her values are right there at the forefront."

Those values comforted many seniors in the congregation, who appreciated her nod to traditionalism and her dedication to the Senior Luncheons and the shut-ins at the senior living centers, says Judd Orff.

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



“Happiness is like a butterfly which, when pursued, is always beyond our grasp, but, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you.”

—Nathaniel Hawthorne

“The senior luncheons were all her work,” he says. “And her services at the senior living centers are phenomenal — at the place where my mom lives, eight or nine people would attend the services; now that Candee [and Chaplain Diane Sauers] is serving, there are 30.”

One thing folks will certainly miss is Pastor Candee’s surprisingly disarming sense of humor — what else could explain her according-playing abilities? Worship Director Phil Kadidlo says discovering that at a staff interview before she was called was a real treat.

“[A/V Coordinator] Jake McBroom and I had both recently been given accordions, and had talked about playing together over our lunch hour at Trinity,” Phil says. “When Candee heard about our interest she immediately bonded with us and we were determined to band together in the name of being of ‘one accord’. We soon had our first ‘gig’: playing for the Celebrating Seniors Christmas Luncheon. We had a ball practicing together and didn’t worry too much about how ‘good’ we were, since we’re all novices. But we must not have been too bad, since we got invited back to play two more times after that!”

Candee isn’t sure what her next move will be, so she plans to spend some time in spiritual discernment to decide which road to walk down. A longtime dream of hers has been to open a spiritual retreat center. If she finds support for this endeavor, it would be a door she would open with great joy. In the meantime, she leaves Trinity more beautiful for her presence.

“There aren’t enough superlatives to say how great Candee is; she is someone special, and a true Trinity treasure — and I’ve been at Trinity for 72 years,” Judd says. “People like her don’t come along very often. She’ll be missed.”

A Letter From the Pastor

Dear friends,

Please join with me in expressing our gratitude for Pastor Candee Moser. She has lived out her call as Pastor of Care Ministries with an abundance of compassion, love and grace. She has touched the lives of many as she walked with individuals and families through some of the most challenging transitions of life.

Many Trinity members have made it a point to share their thanks and gratefulness for the way Candee shared God’s love for them with beauty and grace. We wish her God’s blessings as she blesses another community with her pastoral presence.

The Council will soon appoint a Call Committee to begin working with the St. Paul Area Synod to identify candidates for the position of Pastor of Care Ministries. In the interim, plans are underway to support Trinity’s seniors, their groups and teams.

Let us all wish Pastor Candee beautiful travels and bountiful blessings in her new journey. She will, indeed, be missed.

Pastor Dan



GROUPS & TEAMS



5th Annual St. Valentine's Day Fellowship Party

Tue., Feb. 11 starting at 5 p.m.
Cost: \$63/couple or \$33/person
The Rivertown Inn
306 Olive Street West, Stillwater
 Join the Retired Men's St. Valentine's Day Fellowship Party. This event, formally held at the Fogelberg's Wisconsin residence, has been moved to the Rivertown Inn to accommodate more people and allow easier transportation. This format was modified based on a survey of the last meeting. The Riverton Inn is a five-star facility, but is not currently a fully handicap-equipped site—but we will do our best to accommodate everyone! Plans will be subject to change if less than 25 couples sign up. Hors d'oeuvres reception with a cash bar. Stop by the Trinity office if you need help registering online. Sign-up online at www.trinitylc.org or in the Commons by Feb. 1, 2014.
Questions? Contact Jon Fogelberg at 715-755-2487 or jon@123m.com.

Knitting Ministry

Fourth Thursday of the month
10 a.m.-noon – Living Room.
 Now that the busy holidays are over, I bet you're looking for something to occupy those long nights and cold winter days. Chose an activity that is rewarding and beneficial to others. Knitting is the perfect activity to fill short free times and also the longer stretches when you are stuck inside. There is a need for easy items like scarves and prayer shawls. For the slightly more advanced, you may wish to make hats or baby blankets. Knitting lessons and basic patterns are available. You may work from home if you are not available during the day. *Call Lois Walton at 439-6948 with questions.*

Men's Winter Get-Away

Thur., Jan. 23-Sun., Jan. 26; Cost: \$125
Holmes' cabin outside of Grand Marais
 Enjoy winter with the guys during this four-day event. Free choice of downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, running, and fishing on Friday and Saturday, as well as plenty of eating and fellowship. Cost is \$125, which covers transportation, lodging and food while at the cabin. Out of pocket expenses will include meals on the road, ski passes, beverages, etc. *Sign up online or, if you have any questions, please call Josh Longnecker at 651-263-6803.*



Be Social Media Savvy

Thursday, March 27
10:30 a.m.-noon – Garden Room.
 Do you know how to use Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube? If not, you're missing out on a new part of Trinity's ministry. Trinity's Director of Communications, Kim Pleticha, will chat with us about how to use these social media platforms — so bring your laptop, pad or smartphone and get plugged into the 21st century! Refreshments will be served.

Art in Bloom

Thursday, May 1
9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Minneapolis Institute of Art
 See an array of floral arrangements made to interpret a chosen piece of art, attend lectures given by professional floral designers, and visit the Art in Bloom museum shop. The docent tour is free; lectures have a small fee (register and pay for these on your own). *For more information on either of the above events, please call Donna Harder at 651-351-5043 or 651-329-7047.*

ON PURPOSE



Receiving God's Gifts

Exploring Inner Wisdom

Engaging with reality and contemplating the infinite riches of the world. You can meet your needs.

Sun., Jan. 26, 9-10:20 a.m.



Exploring Your Power

Being strong and capable in affecting the world in many different positive ways. You will not be betrayed.

Sun., Feb. 23, 9-10:20 a.m.



OUT WITH THE OLD

On Wednesday, Jan. 14, Trinity began demolition of the old Post Office to make room for its Opening Doors expansion.

Trinity has owned the old Post Office building for 23 years. In 2012, the Post Office relocated its retail operations to the newly remodeled Croix Center property on 4th Street, also owned by Trinity. The relocation not only improved Post Office facilities and parking, it also freed-up the old Post Office building for church use.

Trinity plans to break ground on the new Opening Doors addition, subject to final congregational approval, sometime in 2014. Construction should take approximately nine months, with a grand opening scheduled for late 2014. For more information about the Opening Doors addition, log on to www.Trinitylc.org and click on "Give" then on "Opening Doors".



C Y F N E W S



Sonia



Robin



Rachel



Nettie



Charlene



Cat



Avery



Almond

Birth to Age-3

The birth to age three programs are supported by some extraordinary volunteers and staff. **THANK YOU** for all your time, energy and kindness you show to the children you serve.

Jesus sees your acts of love
 In everything you do
 And as you carry out your work,
 The love of God shines through
 No matter if the task is small,
 You're there to help me out
 I thank you for your willingness
 In all the ways you've helped.

© By M.S.Lowndes

Thank you — I appreciate you!
 — Melissa Gubricky, Birth-to-Age-3 Specialist



The CYF team, from top left to bottom right: Kelsey Mans, Kristin Tranby, Christine Lande, Julie Jolivet, Kari Kahl, Melissa Gubricky, Jody Nyenhuis, and Tim Hackbarth.

Children's Ministries

Children's Ministries has been filled with excitement! In our videos, we met some new friends who accompanied Paul's conversion and journeys. We learned to smile at the storm when we're afraid; we learned about a superhero of faith, Lydia: she boldly went where no woman dared to go and did things most women were not allowed to do. Using art, science and music, we learned about Paul's journeys; we also learned about Jesus' birth by making scenes from Luke on Christmas cookies. We played lots of games and had fun. This spring, we will be spending time in the gospel of Luke, looking at some more amazing people; we'll also be cooking, acting and creating more original works of art.

Children's Ministries has been so blessed this year with many faithful and committed shepherds who lead our children through the program. We are enriched by workshop leaders who take our children into the stories and help them understand how these stories of faith fill their lives. Now, our 3rd and 4th graders will be moving into a new phase of their learning with Julie and the amazing crew working with those young people. Thanks to everyone who helps make our Children's Ministries flow smoothly.

— Tim Hackbarth, K-2nd Grade Specialist and Julie Jolivet, 3rd-5th Grade Specialist

First Communion Class

March 30, 2014, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Garden Room; lunch provided.

First Communion will be celebrated
 Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7 p.m..

In this three-hour class, children will learn about special meals in church and how they connect with our lives. Children of any age may attend this class, although children younger than kindergarten age may have difficulty understanding the abstraction of communion. At least one parent or other adult should attend with child. For more information, please contact Tim Hackbarth at 651-439-7400 or thackbarth@trinitylc.org. Register online at trinitylc.org, click "Register" then the "First Communion Class" button.

Confirmation Toy Drive

In December, Mary Peters' and Kathy Fogelberg's 9th grade small group decided to collect toys for kids who were spending the holidays at the Amplatz Children's Hospital in Minneapolis. The girls were inspired to do this by one of their fellow small group members, who knows firsthand what it's like to be in the hospital during Christmas. Out of a spirit of love for their friend, the girls encouraged all of the confirmation students to pitch in and donate toys. When all was said and done, they delivered eight large cardboard boxes brimming with toys to the hospital the week before Christmas.



Confirmation

It has been such a joy to connect with the 7th grade students and small group leaders each week for Confirmation. During our first few months, we played, prayed and dug into the book of Acts. In December, we reflected on Advent and celebrated the birth of a tiny baby who changed the world so long ago and continues to change the world today. As we meet in 2014, we will be learning about these life changing stories of Jesus and reflecting on ways we can bring the light of Jesus to our homes, our schools our community — our world.

—Kristin Tranby,
Middle School Specialist

Youth ski & snowboard day

Sunday, Feb. 2, 1:30 -9 p.m.

Grades 7-12

\$40 Register by January 26 online at www.trinitylc.org

Cost includes transportation, lift ticket, and a hot meal. Extra money needed for snacks. Price does not include ski/snowboard rental; rentals are available through Trollhaugen for \$18. Questions? Contact Kristin Tranby at ktranby@trinitylc.org or 651-439-7400, ext. 120.



Sr. High Ministry

The preparations for Mexico Missions 2014 are in full swing! Worksites have been chosen, small groups are meeting, and sponsorships are coming in as we prepare our hearts, minds and bodies for a week of intense labor and spiritual growth. This year, there are 12 Senior Leaders who will mentor younger students and make preparations for our time in Mexico. In addition to their roles for the trip, these young people also have been serving in both Junior High and Children's Ministries. Each month, Senior Leaders join the all-Confirmation worship to help lead songs, read scripture, and be an example of what it means to be a follower of Christ after confirmation has finished. In December, a group of high school students also participated in the Breakfast with Angels Christmas Program, bringing both humor and meaning to the story of Jesus' birth. Looking forward, you will certainly see these young people roaming the church in their bright red t-shirts!

—Kelsey Mans, Director of
Senior High Ministry

Everyday and Annual Family Rituals & Traditions

Every day, every week and every month offer multiple opportunities to reinforce your family's bond. "Synergize" your family with affection, celebration and confidence!

Day-to-Day Rituals:

- Daily Devotions
- Prayer time at meals and bedtimes
- After-school snack and "question of the day" time
- Singing in the car to favorite songs
- Story time before bed
- Bath-time play: water crayons, bubbles, or adding glow-sticks to bathwater and turn the lights off!

Weekly Traditions:

- Saturday or Sunday morning breakfast in jammies
- Family Pizza and Game Night
- Rotating Family Chore Chart (create a spinning wheel!)
- Worshipping weekly as a family

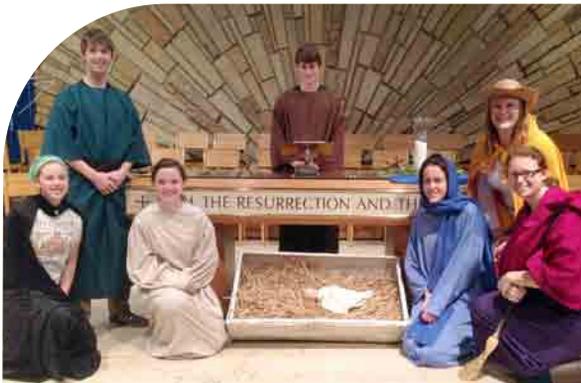
Annual/Special Day Rituals:

- Hanging crepe paper and balloons in your child's bedroom doorway on birthdays
- Make or purchase an "I am Special" plate for family members to use during meals on extra-special days
- Take a picture of your child in the same spot every year. (e.g., the first day of school)
- Heart-shaped cookies, sandwiches, candies, cards and signs—on Valentine's Day!
- Purchase favorite -flavor of ice cream or cereal on school report days
- Ring the Salvation Army bell as a family at Christmastime
- Go Shopping and donate the bags of food to the local food shelf once every three months.
- Visit with friends to discover ways other families build ritual and tradition into their homes.

If you have questions about LADC, contact the main office at 651-762-7884 or visit www.ladcfamilies.org

C Y F N E W S

Breakfast with Angels



More than 200 people sat down to Breakfast With Angels on Saturday, Dec. 14 in the Garden Room. Children and their parents made an array of Christmas crafts, including a Christmas pinecone topiary, “stained glass” windows, and beautiful candle centerpieces. They also feasted on baked cinnamon French toast, sausage, and a variety of fruit — served by Trinity’s very own Confirmation “angels”. The highlight of the morning was a Christmas program presented by Trinity’s senior high students.

Many thanks to everyone who helped with this year’s event, including our Confirmation and Senior High student volunteers and our partners at Lake Area Discovery Center!



GRATEFUL FOR SNOW?

Each snowflake is different, but each contributes equally to both the beautiful snowy landscape and the slippery roads.

—(Author Unknown)

By Norma Wilson,
Library Volunteer

Snow is used to illustrate different thoughts in the Bible: refreshment, beauty, adversity, and challenge.

Jesus Sows the Word: Parables in

Matthew (226.2) is one of many Bible study guides found in the 200 section of our library (I've included the section numbers for each book in this article; these will help you quickly find the books in the library).

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Life Together/Prayerbook of the Bible* (230.04 BONH) is a reflection on Christian community and an interpretation of the Psalms. Author

Frank Viola believes we need to revisit and revise what it means to live the Christian life. In his new book *Revise Us Again* (248 VIOL), Viola examines ten key areas that impact every believer. Anne Lamott's

2013 book, *Stitches: A Handbook on Meaning, Hope and Repair* (249 LAMO), explores how to find meaning in the frantic times of life, loss and devastation. The Recovery Resource section is filled with Hazelden-recommended resources to enhance lifelong recovery and personal growth.

Grateful for snow? *The Gratitude Factor* (248.4 SHEL) by Charles

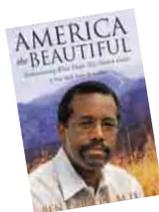
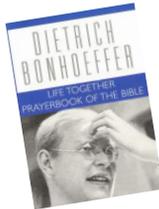
Sheldon expresses that gratitude is one of life's essential ingredients: an emotion central to Christian spirituality. Sheldon's reflection on Jesus as a grateful person provides strategies and



reflections to facilitate a growth in gratitude. What are you grateful for?

Todd Jensen's book, *on gratitude* (248.4 JENS), shares the grateful stories

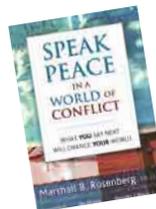
of 42 celebrities through their passions and life experiences. *Once A Day Country Faith* (242 PRIC) compiled by Deborah Evans Price includes the important Scripture passages of 56 top country stars and the impact these scriptures have had on their lives.



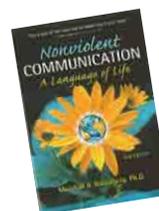
In snowy February we celebrate President's Day and Black History Month. Ben Carson's new book, and New York Times Best Seller, *America the Beautiful: Rediscovering What*

Made This Nation Great (974 CARS), calls us all to use our God-given talents to improve our lives, communities, nation and world.

Author Marshall Rosenberg has mediated conflicts and healing in many corners of the world. His *Speak Peace in a World of Conflict* (303.6 ROSE) and Nonviolent



Communication: A Language of Life (303.6 ROSE) are filled with inspiring stories and ideas to help create peace through speech and communication.



Snowy days are perfect for children and reading. The Trinity Library has many children's classics, including Karen Hesse's 1992 *Letters from Rifka* (JUV HE), an

award-winning novel about a Jewish family fleeing Russia. Other selections include Newbery Award books *Where the Red Fern Grows* (JUV R), *Island of the Blue Dolphins*



(JUV O), *Holes* (JUV S), *Hatchet* (JUV P), and *Charlotte's Web* (JUV W).

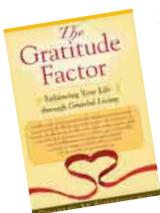


Just as every snowflake is different, so too are the wants and needs of readers. Find what

interests you in the 'kiosk library' near the sanctuary — and, of course, in the complete Trinity Library in Room 114, on the lower level of the church, just inside the 3rd Street entrance.

Let it snow, let it snow — and we can read, read, read!

Norma Wilson is one of Trinity's dedicated volunteer librarians. She invites you to stop by and see her and the other volunteers in the library, which is open whenever the church is open.



W O R S H I P O P P O R T U N I T I E S

- **Saturdays, 5 p.m.**
Evening Worship, Communion
- **Sundays, 9 a.m.**
Traditional Worship, Nursery, Communion
- **Sundays, 10:30 a.m.**
The WALK Contemporary Worship, Nursery, Communion

W O R S H I P A T T E N D A N C E

Dec. 14 & 15	Christmas Day
5 p.m. 88	10:30 a.m. ... 146
9 a.m. 317	
10:30 a.m. ... 244	Dec. 28 & 29
	5 p.m. 59
Dec. 21 & 22	9 a.m. 147
5 p.m. 69	10:30 a.m. ... 214
9 a.m. 310	
10:30 a.m. ... 275	Jan. 4 & 5
Christmas Eve	5 p.m. 51
2 p.m. 413	9 a.m. 199
3 p.m. 336	10:30 a.m. ... 231
4 p.m. 572	
5 p.m. 414	Jan. 11 & 12
7:30 p.m. 258	5 p.m. 83
9 p.m. 272	9 a.m. 251
	10:30 a.m. ... 274

B A P T I Z E D C A L E N D A R

- **Hans Michael Shannon** – son of Troy & Malinda Shannon
- **Liam James Sievert** – son of Christine Sievert
- **Miles Joseph Schilling** – son of Travis & Andrea Schilling
- **Zachary Robert Wasmundt** – son of Chad & Karen Wasmundt
- **Addison Kadi Kimble** – daughter of Troy Kimble & Douglas Hinderliter

S Y M P A T H Y

- **Kim Jelinek and family** on the death of her nephew, Jordan Mutschler, on Dec. 15.
- **Family and friends of Chuck Nogle**, who died on Dec. 25.
- **Sandy Wendt** on the death of her sister, Linda Fossen, on Jan. 1.
- **Mary Gray** on the death of her mother.

Fri., January 24

- 7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
- 10 a.m. Al-Anon meeting: Rm 108B
- 10 a.m. Raymie Johnson Sr. Communion
- 10:30 a.m. Oak Park Senior Living Sr. Communion
- 1:15 p.m. Oak Ridge Apts. Sr. Communion

Sat., January 25

- 8 a.m. AA meeting: Library
- 8 a.m. Al-Anon meeting: Luther Hall
- 5 p.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION

Sun., January 26

- 9 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION: Worship Ctr
- 9 a.m. Sunday Learning (3yrs-Gr6): Lower Lvl
- 9 a.m. Exploring Inner Wisdom: Living Rm
- 10:30 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION: Worship Ctr
- 10:30 a.m. Great Course: Living Rm
- 4 p.m. Men's Get-Away Returns
- 5 p.m. TMAA Winter Social: Off-site
- 7 p.m. Women's Book Group: Off-site

Mon., January 27

- 7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
- 6 p.m. Jubilate (Adult) Bells: Heritage Chapel
- 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
- 7 p.m. Al-Anon meeting: Library
- 7 p.m. GLOW Trip Planning Mtg: Living Rm

Tue., January 28

- 7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
- 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study: Living Room
- 9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
- 1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
- 6 p.m. AA meeting: Library
- 7 p.m. WALK Rehearsal: Worship Ctr

Wed., January 29

- 7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
- 9:15 a.m. Heart of the Home Moms
- 5 p.m. Children's Choirs: Choir Rm
- 5:30 p.m. Family Pizza Hour: Garden Rm
- 6:15 p.m. Confirmation (Gr7-9): Worship Ctr
- 6:15 p.m. Wed. Learning (3yrs-Gr6): Lower Lvl
- 7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Rm
- 7:30 a.m. The River Worship: Youth Area

B E L L S T H A N K Y O U !

Our sincere thanks from the Jubilate Bell Choir to Gretchen and Vince Turnblad for providing us with six new bell cases and three new bells! Trinity's bells date back to the 1970s and the cases were in serious disrepair, as were several bells. The Turnblads dedicate their gift in memory of their son, Kevin. The bell choir feels blessed that the Turnblads felt called in such a generous way — what wonderful examples of grateful stewards! We are still in need of six new bells and welcome all donations.

— *Debi Orff, Director of Jubilate Bells*



T R I N I T Y T O D A Y

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Thu., January 30

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
7:30 a.m. Spiritual Practice: Narthex
9:30 a.m. Bible Study-Revelation: Rm 108B

Fri., January 31

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
10 a.m. Al-Anon meeting: Rm 108B

Sat., February 1

8 a.m. AA meeting: Library
8 a.m. Al-Anon meeting: Luther Hall
5 p.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION

Sun., February 2

9 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION: Worship Ctr
9 a.m. Sunday Learning (3yrs-Gr6): Lower Lvl
10:30 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION: Worship Ctr
10:30 a.m. Couples Group: Library Conf. Rm
10:30 a.m. Great Course: Living Rm
10:45 a.m. Play & Pray Group (ages 0-3)
1:30 p.m. Youth skiing at Trollhagen
Noon Mexico Missionary/Adult Leader: Living Rm

Mon., February 3

7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
8:45 a.m. Women's Bridge: Garden Rm
1:30 p.m. Commodity Food Dist.: 4th St. Entr.
6 p.m. Jubilate (Adult) Bells: Heritage Chapel
6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
7 p.m. Al-Anon meeting: Library
7 p.m. Faith & Family Vision Team: Living Rm

Tue., February 4

7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study: Living Rm
9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
6 p.m. AA meeting: Library
6:30 p.m. Building Personal Theology: Living Rm
7 p.m. WALK Rehearsal: Worship Ctr

Wed., February 5

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
9:15 a.m. Heart of the Home Moms
5 p.m. Children's Choirs: Choir Rm
5:30 p.m. Family Pizza Hour: Garden Rm
6:15 p.m. Confirmation (Gr7-9): Worship Ctr
6:15 p.m. Wed. Learning (3yrs-Gr6): Lower Lvl
7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Rm
7:30 a.m. The River Worship: Youth Area

Thu., February 6

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
7:30 a.m. Spiritual Practice: Narthex
9:30 a.m. Bible Study-Revelation: Rm 108B
2 p.m. Healing Touch: Narthex
7:30 p.m. SAHS Concert: Worship Ctr

Fri., February 7

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
10 a.m. Al-Anon meeting: Rm 108B
1 p.m. BeFriender meeting: Rm 108B

Sat., February 8

8 a.m. AA meeting: Library
8 a.m. Al-Anon meeting: Luther Hall
9 a.m. Al-Anon meeting: Library, Living Rm
5 p.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION
7:30 p.m. Gustavus Adolphus Choir Concert

Sun., February 9

9 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION: Worship Ctr
9 a.m. Sunday Learning (3yrs-Gr6): Lower Lvl
10:30 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION: Worship Ctr
10:30 a.m. Great Course: Living Rm
Noon Mexico Mission Adult Leaders: Living Rm
7 p.m. Women's Book Group: Off-site

Mon., February 10

7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
1 p.m. Rebekah Circle: Library
6 p.m. Jubilate (Adult) Bells: Heritage Chapel
6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
7 p.m. Al-Anon meeting: Library

Tue., February 11

7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study: Living Room
9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
9 a.m. Croixdale Sr. Communion
9:15 a.m. Leah Circle Mtg: Narthex
9:45 a.m. Good Samaritan Sr. Communion
10:15 a.m. Greeley Sr. Communion
1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
1 p.m. Martha Circle Mtg: Living Rm
5 p.m. Retired Men's Valentine Party: Off-site
6 p.m. AA meeting: Library
6:30 p.m. Building Personal Theology: Living Rm
6:45 p.m. Anna Circle: Rm 108B
7 p.m. WALK Rehearsal: Worship Ctr

Wed., February 12

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study: Commons
7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
1 p.m. Martha Circle Mtg: Living Rm
5 p.m. Children's Choirs: Choir Rm
5:30 p.m. Family Pizza Hour: Garden Rm
6:15 p.m. Confirmation (Gr7-9): Worship Ctr
6:15 p.m. Wed. Learning (3yrs-Gr6): Lower Lvl
7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Rm
7:30 a.m. The River Worship: Youth Area

Thu., February 13

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
7:30 a.m. Spiritual Practice: Narthex
9:30 a.m. Bible Study-Revelations: Rm 108B

Fri., February 14

7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
10 a.m. Al-Anon meeting: Rm 108B

Sat., February 15

All Day Community Meal Packing
8 a.m. AA meeting: Library
8 a.m. Al-Anon meeting: Luther Hall
5 p.m. Mexico Mission Meal Pack/Bowling
5 p.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION
7:30 p.m. Valley Chamber Chorale Concert

Sun., February 16

All Day Community Meal Packing
9 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION: Worship Ctr
9 a.m. Sunday Learning (3yrs-Gr6): Lower Lvl
10:30 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION: Worship Ctr
10:30 a.m. Couples Group: Library Conf. Rm
10:30 a.m. Great Course: Living Rm
3 p.m. Valley Chamber Chorale Concert

Mon., February 17

All Day Community Meal Packing
7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
4 p.m. Council Mtg: Office Conf. Rm
6 p.m. Jubilate (Adult) Bells: Heritage Chapel
6:30 p.m. Tai Chi: Gym
7 p.m. Al-Anon meeting: Library

Tue., February 18

All Day Community Meal Packing
7:30 a.m. AA meeting: Library
8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study: Living Room
9 a.m. Women's Book Group: Library
1 p.m. Prayer Group: Narthex
6 p.m. AA meeting: Library
6:30 p.m. Building Personal Theology: Living Rm
7 p.m. WALK Rehearsal: Worship Ctr

Wed., February 19

All Day Community Meal Packing
7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
9:15 a.m. Hearts of the Home Moms
10:15 a.m. Linden Sr. Communion
5 p.m. Children's Choirs: Choir Rm
5:30 p.m. Family Pizza Hour: Garden Rm
6:15 p.m. Confirmation (Gr7-9): Off-site
6:15 p.m. Wed. Learning (3yrs-Gr6): Lower Lvl
7 p.m. Trinity Choir Rehearsal: Choir Rm
7:30 a.m. The River Worship: Youth Area

Thu., February 20

All Day Community Meal Packing
7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
7:30 a.m. Spiritual Practice: Narthex
9:30 a.m. Bible Study-Revelation: Rm 108B

Fri., February 21

All Day Community Meal Packing
7 a.m. AA meeting: Library
10 a.m. Al-Anon meeting: Rm 108B
10:30 a.m. Boutwells Sr. Communion
1:15 p.m. Rivertown Commons Sr. Communion



T R I N I T Y
T R A N S P O R T A T I O N

Trinity's van is available for the Sunday, 9 a.m. worship service at Trinity. A ride is available for members or non-members lacking transportation. Please call the Church Office at 439-7400 between 9 a.m. Wed. and 4 p.m. Thu. to reserve your seat each week. Estimated pick-up times if you have reserved a seat:

- 8:15 a.m. – Boutwell's Landing at the main entrance
- 8:25 a.m. – Raymie Johnson
- 8:35 a.m. – Croixdale
- 8:40 a.m. – Oakridge
- 8:45 a.m. – Rivertown Commons

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We are ready for you,
your families, friends,
and small groups to
sign-up for a two-hour
packing session at the
7th Annual Community
Meal-Packing Event.

7th Annual

Feb. 15-22, 2014

COMMUNITY MEAL-PACKING EVENT

Andersen Windows Corporate Headquarters, 5909 Omaha Ave. N., Oak Park Heights, MN

FEE: \$20 minimum donation/person + two hours of time

We look forward to serving together to fight hunger locally and globally.

Locally meals will be placed in local food pantries in western Wisconsin, Stillwater, St. Paul, and other eastern Minnesota communities in partnership with Ruby's Pantry. Globally meals will be sent to Haiti and Africa through our partners at Global Health Ministries.

To sign up, contact
Chuck or Joan Newman at
651-436-8609.

For general event information contact
Tom Thiets at 651-788-5112.