

TRINITY TIMES

SOUTH SHORE TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH Sharing • Caring • Growing in Christ

FEBRUARY 2019 A.D.

GOD'S MISSION FOR SST

Sharing, Caring, Growing in Christ

CORE VALUES

- Bible-centered Preaching and Teaching
- Worship
- Community Outreach
- Caring Relationships Family Focus
- Sharing God's Word

WELCOME ...

to the February edition of the **South Shore Trinity Times**. All activities for the month (known at the time of printing) are included. The Times is available the last Sunday of the month for pick up at church. It is also available on our website, www.sstwbl.org.

HOW TO REACH US . . .

South Shore Trinity Lutheran Church
2480 South Shore Blvd.
White Bear Lake, MN 55110-3807

Phone: (651) 429-4293
Fax: (651) 653-3634
E-mail: info@sstwbl.org
Dial-a-Devotion: (651) 429-0078

John 15:12-15 *"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you."*

Dear brothers and sisters who are unconditionally loved by the Lord,

On February 14th many of us will express our love and appreciation to our spouse, fiancé, significant other, or someone else as we observe Valentine's Day. I am looking forward to celebrating that day with my wife. Yet, I realize that you may be unable to do that for any number of reasons. Some of you remember with fondness celebrating Valentine's Day with your spouse who died while others are struggling to forgive their former spouse. And, of course some of you unmarried or are in a different situation.

In the reading above, Jesus clearly states that we are to love one another as He has loved us. It's important to note that He was talking to His disciples in the Upper Room and not just to husbands or wives. In addition, He didn't say, love them when you feel like it. He commanded them (and us) to love someone/to love others unconditionally. The Greek word is *agapate*. So, how did Jesus demonstrate the way we should unconditionally love someone else? One of the best places to look is found a few chapters before this text, in John 13:1-17, especially verse 14, *"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."* Yes! Jesus had spoken these words earlier that evening as He was humiliating Himself in front of His disciples and washing their feet. That was something a servant was supposed to do! But, notice, Jesus didn't care if He "lowered Himself" in the sight of His disciples. He wanted to show them how much He loved them so they could also show the same kind of love to others.

Does this give you an example of a way that you could show someone that you love them unconditionally? If your spouse (or someone else you love) cooked the meal, why not wash the dishes, pots, and pans? Or, if your loved one had a difficult day at work, why not give him/her a hug, listen to them, and then truly listen without giving feedback before they are finished? This is only one way to show that you unconditionally love that person. There are so many other ways that we can show unconditional love. Is there someone you just thought of who could use a visit, a phone call, or a letter or something else done to show your love for God and for them?

Jesus demonstrated what it means to love unconditionally by washing His disciples' feet, but He did even more. This is what He told His disciples in verse 13 above, *"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."* The disciples didn't understand what He meant when He said it but they soon did. Thankfully, we who live on this side of His death and resurrection know that His unconditional love was best shown on the cross and the empty tomb! Why would any of us want to show unconditional love? Because our Savior did.

On Valentine's Day and every day may the Lord bless you as you unconditionally love others and share His love!

Pastor Bob Gehrke

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, February 2

5:30pm *Traditional Worship w/Holy Communion*

Sunday, February 3

8:00am *Traditional Worship w/Holy Communion*

10:45am *Praise Team Worship w/Holy Communion*

Saturday, February 9

5:30pm *Traditional Worship w/Holy Communion*

Sunday, February 10

8:00am *Traditional Worship*

10:45am *Worship w/Holy Communion*

Saturday, February 16

5:30pm *Traditional Worship w/Holy Communion*

Sunday, February 17

8:00am *Traditional Worship w/Holy Communion*

10:45am *Praise Team Worship w/Holy Communion*

Saturday, February 23

5:30pm *Traditional Worship w/Holy Communion*

Sunday, February 24

8:00am *Traditional Worship*

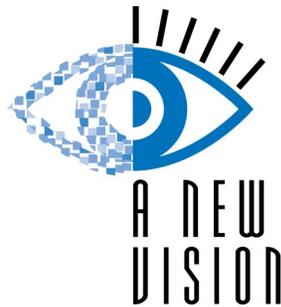
10:45am *Worship w/Holy Communion*

Organ Work Will Begin

On the 1st of February, the organ work (that was approved by voters over a year ago) will begin. The console and pipes will be moving around the balcony. We ask that you refrain from entering the balcony until the work is completed (we expect the work to be completed by March 1) for your safety and to ensure no damage occurs to exposed organ components. What's happening with the organ? Our organ is getting many updates along with maintenance, including new electrical contacts on the keyboards and pedal board; an installation of a MIDI system; installation of a new solid state combination memory system that includes new stop actions and preset pistons and more. A copy of the full specs of the project are available in the church office. Thanks for your understanding as we substitute keyboard and piano for the organ during traditional services.

For God so loved the world
that he gave his
only
begotten
Son,
that whoever
believes
in him should not perish
but have everlasting life.

(John 3:16, NKJV)



"Living a New Vision - Stepping into God's Future for Our Church" is the title of the four-week Bible Study Pastor Gehrke will be facilitating on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall which will correspond to the sermon series the pastors will be focusing on during the month of February. Plan to join us as we see how we can live a new vision as a congregation.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars®. Members become eligible for Thrivent Choice based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership. If you're an eligible Thrivent Financial member and have Choice Dollars® available to direct, please keep South Shore Trinity in mind. For more info or to direct Choice Dollars, call 1-800-847-4836 and say, "Thrivent Choice." Or go to: <http://bit.ly/XJrPZN>.

Eligible members have until March 31, 2019 to direct 2018 Choice Dollars they are designating.

CHRISTIAN GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

MONDAYS

Women's Home Bible Study

Place: Member's home
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Contact: Judy Jarsko 651-429-7133

WEDNESDAYS

Women's Bible Study

A weekly study for women (member & non-member)
Theme: Our Awesome God
Place: Upstairs [2-6]
Time: 9:30am
Contact: LuErna Sawyer, 651-464-7820

Young-at-Heart Bible Class

Topic: An Epiphany Study of Mark, Chapter 1-8
Place: Lounge [F8]
Time: 9:30am
Contact: Pastor Norb Streufert

Home Bible Study

Topic: A weekly study of the Books of the Bible
Place: Rotates among group member's homes.
Time: 7:00pm
Contact: George & Celeste Gifford, 651-464-1022

6th–8th Grade Confirmation

Place: 2-6 (7/8th grade classroom)
Time: 7-8:00pm
Contact: Pastor Bodin, 651-429-4293
PastorDan@sstwbl.org

9th Grade Confirmation

Place: Youth Room
Time: 6:45pm
Contact: Pastor Bob Gehrke, 651-429-4293
Pastor@sstwbl.org

THURSDAYS

Topic: 2017 edition of Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation
Place: Lounge [F8]
Time: 7:00pm
Contact: Pastor Gehrke, 651-429-4293

SUNDAYS

Adult Bible Study

Topic: Living a New Vision—Stepping into God's Future for Our Church
Place: Fellowship Hall [Room B22]
Time: 9:30am
Contact: Pastor Gehrke, 651-429-4293

High School Youth Bible Study

Place: Youth Room
Time: 9:30am
Contact: Pastor Dan Bodin

Young Families Small Group

Topic: If you are responsible for the wellbeing and raising of little ones, this study is for you. **Once a month**, we will get together for a meal (please bring along a side dish to share), then the parents will spend time in community and study together, as the children enjoy some supervised playtime.
Date: To be determined
Place: Fellowship Hall and Nursery
Time: 3:30- 6:30pm
Contact: Elizabeth Kylo, 507-514-2950 or emkylo@hotmail.com

VISION STATEMENT. . .

The following Vision Statement was approved at the January 21, voters' meeting.

With the hope of reaching those not yet following Christ, SSTLC envisions its members spiritually growing and personally reaching out to build relationships and share Christ's love especially with:

- **Young families with children**, by providing programs and services that actively meet their needs. *"...for such belong the kingdom of God"* (Matthew 19:14)
- **People in the 50+ age group** in our community, to show them that we care about them and their spiritual life.



Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Barry and I can not count the numerous blessings we received in 2018 from disciples (members) at South Shore Trinity.

The brothers and sisters, yes pastors are included, overwhelmed us with prayers, rides here and there, food, words of encouragement and the attention given us – ALL touched our very being. As Paul stated in his letters "I (we) thank you my heavenly Father". We are thankful and grateful. We pray blessings on all of you as we all reach out to others with the love of Jesus.

Mary Torno

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

10th Annual Soup Sunday March 23 & 24

Matthew 25:35

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in.*

The White Bear Food Shelf receives its funding based on the number of pounds of donations received during the month of March. So the Stewardship Board is sponsoring the 10th annual "S.O.U.P. Sunday". All donations will be brought to the WBL Emergency Food Shelf to help with their funding goals.

The White Bear Area Emergency Food Shelf has been providing food to our neighbors in need since 1977. They do this in close partnership with our community - with individuals, churches, schools, businesses, neighborhood associations, and other community groups.

We encourage every disciple, young and old, to participate in S.O.U.P. Sunday by bringing a can of soup to church on or before March 23/24.

You may also make a cash contribution that will be donated to WBL Food Shelf.

One can of soup is a relatively small gesture in itself, but added together we can make a BIG difference.

S.O.U.P.
Sunday



T is for Teaming

**For just as each of us has one body with many members,
and these members do not all have the same function,
so in Christ we, though many, form one body,
and each member belongs to all the others.**
Romans 12:4-5 (NIV)⁴

Teams are formed in many ways-sports, work crews, families, towns and cities, and so on. Each is made of a number of individuals, or parts, and all have their own responsibility to the team. It might be scoring points or preventing the opposition from scoring. It might be doing the bookkeeping for a club or being the coordinator for family activities. Regardless of the task, the whole is made of all the parts.

Have you ever thought of Christians as a team? It makes sense though. We all bring gifts and talent. When we study and teach God's word our team gets stronger. As more people volunteer the stronger our team gets. The more we attend service the stronger our team gets. Whatever our part is, we are all part of the Body of Christ, or, in other words, God's Team.

Touching Reaching out and connecting with others

*This is my commandment,
that you love one another as I have loved you.*
John 15:12

A short time after I got my I phone, I neglected charging it for just a couple of days. I picked it up to look up something and there was a message on the screen "low battery shutting down". Just like a cell phone needs to be connected to an energy source and charged often, we need to be connected, not only with God, but with each other.

An old 1987 AT&T commercial proclaimed "Reach out and touch someone". This is as good advice now, as it was then. We all need relationships, and the support that they bring. We need to recharge our batteries. God, after creating Adam, saw that it was not good for us to be alone, so created Eve, so that we could support each other. Then gave us directions through his word on how we should touch each other.

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.
Galatians 6:2

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
Romans 12:15

Our relationship with God is kind of like our phone, he charges us up, and we can remain active and fruitful as long as we plug into him often. Our relationship with others is a bit different, in that it is a two-way street. We charge and support each other. When we touch someone else, we are in turn being touched and strengthened.

*Therefore encourage one another and build one another up,
just as you are doing.*
1 Thessalonians 5:11

*And in him you too are being built together
to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*
Ephesians 2:22

*A friend loves at all times,
and a brother is born for a time of adversity.*
Proverbs 17:17



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Camp Omega Scholarships

Camp Omega, summer fun that changes lives! SST Endowment Fund is giving scholarships for our children and youth to attend Camp Omega this summer. Please pick up an information sheet from the Endowment Committee on the counter outside the church office. Deadline for early registration discount is March 1. Questions, contact Muriel Janneke at 651-653-0411 or 612-709-2985.



2018-2020 Board of Stewardship

Dorit Hafner, Chair
 Glenn Borkenhagen, Treasurer
 Dan FitzPatrick
 Lynn Hennings
 Jayne Kurpius, Financial Secretary

The basic objectives of the Board of Stewardship are to initiate programs for the development of good stewardship attitudes in the members of the congregation in regard to time, talent, and treasures, to provide for the training and utilization of members of the congregation for the work of Christ's Kingdom, and to ensure the financial stability of the congregation and its work through a developed program of dedicated, proportional, first fruits giving.

Endowment Committee

Muriel Janneke, Treasurer
 Lynn Hennings, Chair
 Bob Oebser, Secretary
 Glenn Borkenhagen
 John Johnston
 Pastor Bob Gehrke

A MEASURE OF OUR LOVE

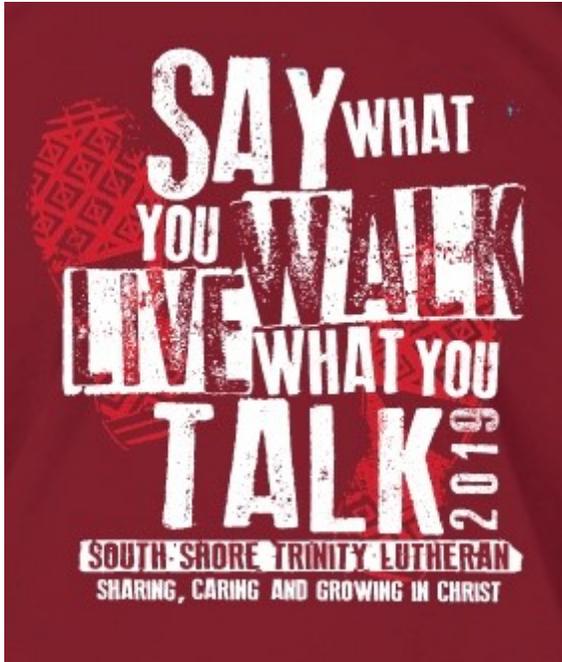
Actual Income to General Fund in December 2018	\$ 83,813
Actual Expenses in December 2018	\$ 61,886
Year-to-Date Actual Income (July 1–December 31)	\$ 357,335
Year-to-Date Actual Expenses (July 1–December 31)	\$ 354,196
Year-to-Date Income less Expense	\$ 3,139

ATTENDANCE

Average Sunday Attendance in December 2018	
Saturday	49
Sunday 8:00am	119
Sunday 10:45am	114
Average Advent Attendance 2018	
11:00am	57
6:30pm	49
Christmas Eve 2018 Attendance	
4:00pm	332
7:00pm	92
11:00pm	40
Christmas Day 2018 Attendance	67
New Year's Eve 2018 Attendance	25



SST YOUTH GROUP



Say What you Walk, Live What you Talk

This program is for youth grades 6+ (in the fall of 2019). Space is limited. We encourage you to register as soon as possible. Register before January 10th for discount. Only down payment due at time of registration.

In the "Say What you Walk, Live What you Talk" summer program, we live out our faith - by sharing, caring and growing in Christ.

We meet on select Tuesdays in June and July from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. We serve in our community in the morning followed by a devotion and lunch before heading out for some fun in our community. Each week is different. In the past, we have served at Feed My Starving Children, 2nd Harvest Food Bank, Habitat Humanity, ARC, and more! Our afternoons have included water parks, state parks, bowling, movies and so much fun!

This year you have the option to choose just Tuesdays or Tuesdays+Camp!

New this year -- The Tuesdays + Camp option: If you choose this option, you will enroll in the High Ropes Adventure Camp! This option will take your summer adventure to new heights! You will experience an adrenaline filled week on the Camp Omega high ropes course. After experiencing some low-ropes and ground elements, you will spend the day suspended 20-40 feet in the air engaged in high ropes team-building challenge course adventures. There is also plenty of time for archery, swimming, field games, daily Bible study and much more! This is an overnight camp - five nights. All meals are included. (Canteen money is not included.) Camp Omega is located in Waterville, MN. Bus transportation is included or you can choose to transport your youth. The Bus will leave on Sunday, June 16th at 3 p.m. and will arrive back on Friday, June 21 at approximately 1 p.m. Everything is included in camp except canteen money and the photo CD that is available to campers. To find out more about Camp Omega - check out their website at www.campomega.org

This year's schedule:

Tuesdays: June 11, 25, July 9, 16, 23
Camp: June 16-21 (overnight camp)

Cost: (early registration discount thru 1/10/19 - \$25 off Tuesdays Only, \$50 off Tuesdays + Camp)

Tuesdays ONLY: \$225
Tuesday + Camp: \$400

Schedules for Tuesdays will be released in March. Tuesdays PLUS Camp participants will receive additional registration information for Camp once registered. Camp space not guaranteed after January 10th.

If you need a scholarship, please contact Jill at jill@sstwbl.org

Thank you for supporting the youth in their Sub Sandwich Fundraiser. Your support is appreciated!

We'd love to know what you thought of our subs this year - if you have comments, please let Jill Wiebe know at jill@sstwbl.org

Youth Group Schedule for February

February 2nd—Sub Sandwich Assembly (10am-noon)

February 3rd—Distribute Subs from fundraiser in morning

February 10th—5:30-6:30pm NYG participant meeting
—6:30-8:00pm Youth Group Fellowship, games, and snacks (archery has been cancelled)

February 24th—6:30-8:00pm, fellowship and Bible study led by Pastor Dan in the Youth Room.

Register online:

<https://sstwbl.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/>

2018-2020

Board of Youth

Lloyd Grachek, Chair
Nick Johnston
Cory Pederson
Gina Ruesch

FELLOWSHIP AND OTHER EVENTS



Lutheran Women in Mission

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.



Valentine's Bake Sale Saturday/Sunday, February 9/10 Lounge

Trinity Guild is again hosting a bake sale the weekend before Valentine's Day after the Saturday evening service and on Sunday between services! Please stop by and purchase some homemade goodies for your sweetheart or best friend!

Proceeds will go toward our mission projects. Whether you are baking, buying, or helping with the sale, we are grateful and appreciate your support! Thank you!

Trinity Guild

January is behind us. I hope you have enjoyed the down time after the busy holidays.

Our February meeting will be on February 5th at 2:00pm. All our meetings this year will be at 2:00pm in the afternoon with the exception of May which will be a Salad Luncheon or Tea and June 4th meeting will be "Feed My Starving Children". Also, instead of having hostesses every month, we will be asking one member to bring bars or cookies. The officers will put the coffee and tea on. The exception to this is the May meeting and the Christmas party. There will be a signup sheet at the meeting so you can make your choice.

We hope to have the 2019 booklets ready for you to pick up at the February meeting. At the February meeting, we will complete tying the blankets that we have. One suggestion for these blankets is Gillette's Children's Hospital. If you have an idea, we will consider it at the meeting. See you there.

LuErna Sawyer and Terry Borkenhagen, Co-Chairs

Book Nook News



Perhaps you have forgotten that you have books you checked out of the library (Book Nook.) Please locate them and bring them into the church library. Thank you for your help!

Greeting Cards

In need of greeting cards? Our Book Nook, has boxes of greeting cards displayed in the library ready for purchase. Hurry in for best selection.

Winter Workshop

Hosted by the St. Paul Metro Zone 

Saturday Feb 2, 2019 9:00-11:00AM

Registration and light breakfast 9am, speaker 9:45-11am, free will offering

Eastern Heights Lutheran Church
616 Ruth Street N
St. Paul, MN 55119-3936

Jonathan House

HELPING PEOPLE SURVIVE AND RECOVER FROM FORCED DISPLACEMENT BY OFFERING SHELTER AND COMMUNITY



Lenten Lunches

The tradition continues in 2019 with Lenten Lunches served following the 11:00am worship service on Wednesdays.

These lunches are hosted by different groups and are a good way to raise funds for your group or mission your group supports. The free-will offerings are matched by *Thrivent Choice Dollars*.

Please contact Sally, 651-429-4293 or sally@sstwbll.org, if your group would like to host one of the Lenten Lunches. The available dates are:

March 20
April 10



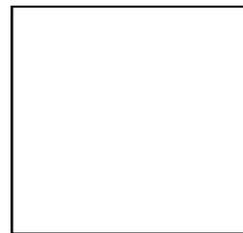
HOW TO REACH US . . .

South Shore Trinity
Lutheran Church
2480 South Shore Blvd.
White Bear Lake, MN 55110-3807

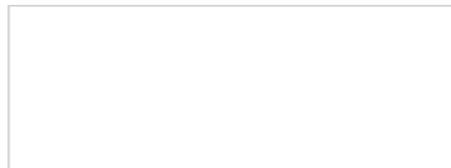
Phone: (651) 429-4293
Fax: (651) 653-3634
E-mail: sstrinity@q.com
Pastor Gehrke: pastor@sstwbl.org
Pastor Bodin: pastordan@sstwbl.org

Dial-a-Devotion: (651) 429-0078

WE'RE ON THE WEB . . .
www.sstwbl.org



FEBRUARY 2019 A.D.



GOD'S VISION FOR US . . .

South Shore Trinity will be a desired destination for our thriving community as we share rewarding fellowship, actively meet community needs, and are visibly involved with our neighbors.

We will be a "magnet" for our guests who will want to return because they feel "at home," welcomed and cared for beyond their expectations, through meaningful worship and fellowship experiences.

Our members are involved in exciting opportunities for fellowship and Christian growth and are prayerful, passionate, and energized in their Christian faith and life by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

OUR STAFF . . .

Rev. Dr. Bob Gehrke Senior Pastor
Rev. Dan Bodin Associate Pastor
Jill Wiebe Director of Education, Youth & Music
Bethany Brandvold Praise Team Leader
Sally Ackerley Office Manager
Carol Gerlach Financial/Office Assistant
Ron & Shirley Wenzel Custodial Team
Jolene Erickson Preschool Director
Ruth Oczak Preschool Assistant
Amanda Josephson Preschool Assistant
Casey Kaupang Preschool Assistant
Celeste Gifford Parish Nurse

GOD'S MISSION FOR US . . . Sharing • Caring • Growing In Christ
