

TOGETHER IN FAITH

Let us gather as a community to celebrate the blessings that surround us



A Letter from the Pastor: Continuing Together in Faith and Ministry

By Pastor Tim Ehling -- Mission Developer for the Kettle River Cooperative

Cooperative Family of God:

As we begin a new year together, I want to thank you for your partnership in ministry. We all have grown in many ways. I am excited to see how God will continue to grow us in faith and life in 2026. Special thanks to your advocates:

Sarah- Bethlehem

Marge- Bethany

Kathy- Trinity

Kristi- Grace

Marady- Emmanuel

Janet "BJ"- Oak Lake

so appreciated them, their commitment, and wisdom. Thank them if you get a chance. Their responsibility of being advocates has now ended as we are shifting to something new and more lasting. **"A Cooperative Church Council".** The Cooperative Church Council will meet for the first time on **Thursday, January 29, 6:00 pm at Hope in Moose Lake.**

As this new year begins, I am already thinking about lent which starts on Wednesday February 18. I am in need of **7 preachers and 2 worship leaders from each church to help shape our Lenten journey this year.** If you are able to help let me know. We will be having a gathering

Sunday Worship

Trinity Lutheran Church

Every Sunday at 8:00am

Oak Lake Lutheran Church

Every Sunday at 11:15am

Connect with Us

Pastor Tim Ehling

320-226-7074

Oak Lake Lutheran Church

53131 Shadow Oak Road, Box 17

Kerrick, MN 55756

218-485-8710

oaklakechurch.org

Trinity Lutheran Church

7576 Lincoln Street

Bruno, MN 55712

320-838-3596

tinyurl.com/Trinity-Bruno

Kettle River Conference Church Cooperative

Stay updated with upcoming events, news, weekly Bible verses, and share prayer requests

Website: kettleriverchurchcoop.org

Facebook Page: Kettle River Conference Church Cooperative, ELCA

Have News to Share?

For questions or to submit content for Trinity, Oak Lake, or Kettle River Co-op communications, contact Amy Nos at ajnos16@hotmail.com or 218-481-5636 – she's happy to help!

They have met with me monthly for over 2 years advocating for you, the church they love, and for me. I have

meeting for Preachers on Tuesday January 13, 6:00 at Hope in Moose Lake. For Worship Leaders on Thursday January 15, 6:00 at Hope in Moose Lake.

Also, for those that are interested. Oak Lake is hosting a Hops and Hymns event on **Monday January 12, 6:00-8:00pm** at the brewery in Moose Lake. All are welcome!

God's peace and blessing be with you are your family this new year.

Thankful For You

Dear family of God,

Thank you for your prayers, presence, and sharing of your talents throughout the cooperative of churches during the Advent/Christmas season. It was a blessing to see the spirit of God working in and through you. Worship would not be the same without your presence.

We also wish to thank you for the special Christmas love many of you shared with us in cards and gifts. We are deeply touched by your thoughtfulness and care for us. Blessings to everyone in this new year and the exciting things God has planned for us together.

With all our love,
Pastor Tim and Becky Ehling



News for January

Deadline: Oak Lake Annual Reports

As we prepare Oak Lake's annual report, please be sure to email all information to the church email by **January 10th**. Thank you for helping us reflect on and celebrate the ways God has been at work in our congregation!

Trinity Annual Report and Annual Meeting

As Trinity's annual report is prepared, please email or submit all information to **Julie Domogalla by January 14th at 5pm**. Thank you for helping us share the story of God's work among us!

Trinity congregation will gather for its **Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 18th, following worship**. A potluck meal will follow the meeting. We hope you will join us as we review the past year and look forward to the ministry ahead.



Hops & Hymns is BACK!

Oak Lake will be hosting another Hops and Hymns on **January 12th from 6:00-8:00pm at Moose Lake Brewery**! Come enjoy an evening of music, fellowship, and familiar hymns as we sing together, with **Nathan Frazer** providing music. All are welcome—invite your neighbors and friends and come share in the joy. Let's pack the place, once again!

Save the Date: Oak Lake Congregational Annual Meeting

Oak Lake congregation will hold its Annual Meeting on **Sunday, February 1st**, following worship services. Your presence and participation are valued.

Blue Christmas: A Night of Reflection, Hope, and Community

On December 21st, Oak Lake and Trinity Health Council hosted a **Blue Christmas service** led by Pastor Tim, offering a sacred space for reflection, honesty, and hope during a season that is not always easy. The service opened with **prayer and readings** from Ecclesiastes and Matthew, reminding us that there is a time for every season of life and that **God is present even when expectations fall short**.

Through **scripture, prayer, communion, and familiar hymns**, worshipers were invited to breathe in **hope, peace, love, and joy**. A powerful moment of the service included the **lighting of five candles representing grief, courage, memory, love, and Christ**, culminating as the congregation shared candlelight while singing *Silent Night*.

The service ended in prayer and continued with fellowship over soup and sandwiches. **Grateful thanks to Pastor Tim and the Oak Lake & Trinity Health Council** for their care and leadership in hosting this meaningful evening.

January

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--------|--|--|
| Bruno Food Shelf Hours: Monday, Friday & Saturday 1-2pm | | | | 1 <i>Happy New Year!</i> | 2 | 3 | |
| Daisy's Thrift Store Hours: Monday, Friday & Saturday 10am-3pm; Thursday 3-6pm | | | | | | | |
| 4 Trinity Worship 8am OL Worship 11:15am | 5 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> | 6 Trinity Council 7pm  | 7 Confirmation & Sunday School 6-7:30pm at Oak Lake | 8 Auxiliary 12pm at Trinity | 9 | 10 OL Deadline for Annual Report Info | |
| 11 Trinity Worship 8am OL Event Mtg 10:15am OL Worship 11:15am | 12 Hops and Hymns 6-8pm at Moose Lake Brewery <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> | 13 Lent Preachers meeting 6pm at Hope in Moose Lake | 14 Confirmation & Sunday School 6-7:30pm at Oak Lake Trinity Deadline for Annual Report Info | 15 Lent Worship Leaders meeting 6pm at Hope in Moose Lake | 16 | 17 | |
| 18 Trinity Worship 8am Annual Meeting and Potluck to follow OL Property Mtg 10am OL Worship 11:15am | 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> | 20 WELCA 9:30am at OL Oak Lake Council 6:30pm | 21 Confirmation & Sunday School 6-7:30pm at Oak Lake | 22 Newsletter Deadline | 23 | 24 | |
| 25 Trinity Worship 8am OL Worship 11:15am Potluck to follow | 26 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> | 27 | 28 Confirmation & Sunday School 6-7:30pm at Oak Lake | 29 Cooperative Church Council 6pm at Hope in Moose Lake | 30 | 31 | |
| | | | | <u>OL Worship Servants:</u> Altar Guild: Janet Sway Readers: Chad and Luisa Dipman Communion Server: Janet Sway Greeters, Acolyte, and Sunday Coffee Hosts: Volunteers | | | |