



Trinity Tidings

November 26, 2025

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
709 W BECKERT RD

NEW LONDON, WI 54961

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Trinity Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Joy to the World

Join in worship this season!

Devotions on TrinityNewLondon.com:

Posted every Wednesday afternoon December 3-17

Advent Worship Services:

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. December 3-17

Sunday School Singing:

December 14 worship service at 9 a.m.

Christmas Eve Worship: 3:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.*

Christmas Day Worship: 9 a.m.

*The 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service will not be livestreamed.

Hearing Loop available

709 W. Beckert Rd. | New London | 920.982.5833

Watch live or recorded at **TrinityNewLondon.com**

December 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Sunday, November 30

- No Adult Sunday School
- Worship 9 AM
- Advent Kick-Off 10 AM
- Trinity Times 10 AM

Monday, December 1

Tuesday, December 2

Wednesday, December 3

- WIC 9 AM
- Advent Worship 6:30 PM
- Confirmation 6:30 PM

Thursday, December 4

- Adult Bible Study 9 AM
- Quilting 10 AM
- Comfort Crafts & Friends 6 AM
- Dartball at Trinity 7 PM

Friday, December 5

Saturday, December 6

Sunday, December 7

- Adult Sunday School 8 AM
- Worship 9 AM
- Sunday School 10 AM
- Trinity Times 10 AM

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of someone, place your order by Sunday, December 14. Each plant costs \$20.00 and will decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas services. You may take it home after Christmas.

Complete the card and insert it along with your payment into the envelope. It can be placed with the offerings or on Amy's desk. Cards and envelopes are at the Info Center outside of the church office.

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday

8 AM - 12 noon

Other times by appointment



- Family and friends of Mick Egan
- Annie Krueger - mother of Samantha Kable, health concerns
- Stephanie Nelson - cousin on Marta Wesenick, recurrent ovarian cancer
- John Schremp - family friend of Marta Wesenick, failing health
- Holly Bodway - surgery
- Angie Kuechler - surgery
- Azim & Hamida and their families
- Leonard Blank - father of Trista Jo Westphal
- Jodie Laatsch - cancer
- Jill Willner - cancer
- Bonnie Robertson - aunt of Dixie Hill, hospice
- Patricia Erb - sister of Kelly Lehl, stroke and cancer
- Pastor Dean Desilet - friend of Pastor Chuck, cancer
- Jerry Carls - friend of Tom Luba, cancer
- Joy Flohr - cancer
- Paul Dobrydnia - friend of Tom Luba, recovering from a stroke
- Jaxson Empey - nephew of Woody Haag
- Juliette Ort - granddaughter of Lisa & Donn Howard; leukemia
- Sarah Hughes - relative of Terry & Lois Wegner, cancer
- Gene Guth - partner of Susan Millard and friend of Nancy Millard - cancer
- Leslie Larson - uncle of Marta Wesenick, cancer
- Kaden Wegner - grandson of Michael Wegner, health concerns
- Dixie Hill - health concerns
- Adam Lehmann - health concerns



SIGN UP TO HELP FOR CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

If you are willing to serve as an usher, lector, communion assistant, slide presenter or live streamer during the Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day Services, please sign up at the info center.



Intent cards will be received through the end of the year. Place them in the offering tray or on Amy's desk. Thank you for helping with our 2026 financial planning.

9,891 GRAB 'N' GO MEALS SERVED TO THOSE IN NEED IN NEW LONDON

Great job Trinity! Thank you for your donations and time that you committed to Trinity's FREE community meals in the New London area! After 6 years of serving meals, Trinity has served a total of 9,891 meals. In 2025, another record was set for the number of meals served each month. This is the first year that over 200 meals were served at each meal.

Volunteers are needed for 2026:

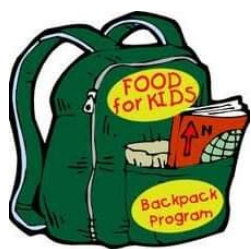
- Meal Team
- Packing Meals
- Distributing Meals
- Community Meals Co-Chair

Kerri Kohls and Sandy Krueger are the current Community Meals co-chairs. Sandy will be continuing in that role, but Kerri will not be continuing after the 2026 meal year. If interested in serving as a co-chair, please contact Sandy Krueger ([920-982-9946](tel:920-982-9946)) or Kerri Kohls ([920-427-9394](tel:920-427-9394)). We would love to start working with Kerri's replacement during the 2026 meal year.

If interested in volunteering, please contact Sandy or Kerri directly or sign-up on the bulletin board outside of church offices.



DECEMBER JOY OF GIVING Project Backpack New London



The last day of the school week, participating children receive a backpack filled with food and snacks for the weekend. On the first day of the school week, the child returns the empty backpack to be restocked.

In today's difficult economic times, an increasing number of parents are finding it hard to provide food for their families. Although free or reduced breakfast and lunches have helped, many children still go hungry during the weekends away from school. School personnel identify possible participants and then parents are invited to participate in the program.

Volunteers are needed to pack backpacks, deliver them to schools and pick up returned backpacks, purchase groceries and supplies, stock shelves, package bulk food items into individual portions, and provide needed funds and resources. Check and share our Facebook page, Project Backpack New London!

Serving at worship this Sunday

Ushers

Steve Dyreson, Woody Haag

Lector

Amy Kuehl

Communion Assistant

Amy Kuehl

Musician

Sally McCormick

Slides

Coral Newton

Livestream

Tom Vigil

Altar Guild

Chris Casey, Cathy Thurk

DECEMBER REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Each day add the item into a box. On Christmas Eve, donate the box to your local food bank

Day 1
Applesauce

Day 2
Canned Beans

Day 3
Canned Chicken

Day 4
Canned Tuna

Day 5
Canned SPAM

Day 6
Canned Veggies

Day 7
Cooking Oils

Day 8
Crackers

Day 9
Dried Herbs & Spices

Day 10
Canned Fruit

Day 11
Granola Bars

Day 12
Instant Potatoes

Day 13
Nuts

Day 14
Pasta

Day 15
Peanut Butter

Day 16
Rice

Day 17
Powdered Milk

Day 18
Canned Soup

Day 19
Cereal

Day 20
Oatmeal

Day 21
Pasta Sauce

Day 22
Bottled Water

Day 23
Tea & Coffee

Day 24
Baby Formula

TW-ELCA/Support & Service will be putting together Christmas treat tins for our senior members and shut-ins after worship on Sunday, December 14th.

Please consider donating a dozen or two cookies or candies and/or holiday tins. We will also need help assembling tins and delivering them.

See Dawn Hess for more information or to volunteer.



Trinity Times after worship is a great time to catch up with each other!

We need people to make this fellowship opportunity happen! Please see the sign up in the Trinity Times area to make coffee, host and clean up, or bring snacks.



Comfort Crafts makes prayer shawls, afghans for the Mission of Hope House, and hats and scarves for the schools. If you knit or crochet, please consider participating in the ministry. Yarn has been donated and is available.

You may also donate yarn to this ministry. Contact a member of Comfort Crafts or the church office for more information.

Comfort Crafts & Friends meets at Trinity from 6 - 8 PM on Thursdays. If you want to learn to crochet or knit, they are happy and honored to help you learn! Can't make it at 6:00 or every week? Come anytime during that time period or work at home. Feel free to bring whatever craft you are working on or just bring yourself for fun and laughter!

Do you know of someone who could use a prayer shawl as a source of comfort? Please contact the church office or someone from Comfort Crafts and they will be honored to help you pick something. Recipients do not need to be Trinity members.



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November Sunday School

- **November 2, 16 & 23:** Story time will be held in the library for children ages birth to 3K.
- **November 2:** Sunday School at 10 a.m.
- **November 9:** Bingo Day! Parents/guardians and students, join us in the Fellowship Hall at 10 a.m.
- **November 16:** Sunday School at 10 a.m.
- **November 23:** Sunday School at 10 a.m.
- **November 30:** Advent Kick-Off! Parents/guardians and students: join us in the Fellowship Hall at 10 a.m. for crafts and create a take-home kit to celebrate the season!

**Unless otherwise listed, please drop off Sunday School students at main sanctuary door in the upper level parking lot.
Pick up students at the lower level parking lot.*



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December Sunday School

- **December 14 & 21:** Story time will be held in the library for children ages birth to 3K.
- **December 7:** Enjoy a presentation of The Christmas Story in the sanctuary at 10 a.m., followed by our final choir rehearsal before our performance next week. Parents/guardians are invited to join in the fun!
- **December 14:** Singing in church at 9 a.m. (please have your student in the Lower Level by 8:40 a.m.). Join us at 10 a.m. in the Lower Level for a Christmas party for students and their parents/guardians!
- **December 21 & 28:** Christmas break. No Sunday School classes.

**Unless otherwise listed, please drop off Sunday School students at main sanctuary door in the upper level parking lot.
Pick up students at the lower level parking lot.*

SUNDAY READINGS

First Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Psalms 122

¹ I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."

² Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

³ Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

⁴ to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of
the LORD.

⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you."

⁷ Peace be within your walls

and quietness within your towers.

⁸ For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.

⁹ Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good."

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴²

Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

**"Therefore
you also must
BE READY,
for the
SON OF MAN
is coming
at an hour
you do not
expect."**

Matthew 24:44, NRSV



SERMON NOTES



Are we there yet?

Have you ever heard this question on a family road trip?

I know I asked my Dad this question as he was driving many times.

Or else the question was "NOW how many more miles, Dad?"

I as well as my siblings probably drive our parents nuts at times on our family trips, usually camping on the Summer.

My kids have never been too bad about this.

They were pretty patient.

They would kid me about when i would take a wrong turn and would get to our destination later, calling it "Dad's scenic routes." This happened in the Black Hills on our way back to the campsite from Mount Rushmore.

We went to the light show and took wrong turn into a casino town.

I told them I really wanted to show them that. Haha.

My son, the pastor, was able to use this story as a sermon illustration.

I have always struggled with patience.

I would often count the miles to go as we went along.

I still do this sometimes.

"Are we there yet?" can be an appropriate question for Advent.

Advent is a season of anticipation.

Ultimately it is about anticipating the second coming of Christ.

However, it is easy to lose sight of this and focus on the upcoming Christmas celebrations.

It seems to me that the shopping season starts earlier and earlier I do not remember as a kid seeing Christmas items already up at Halloween.

When the Christmas season is over it's back to normalcy.

Another year.

Back to the grindstone.

Another Christmas come and gone.

What would it look like if we actually focused upon Jesus' second coming?

Some Christians do.

Many are obsessed with the end times and expect Jesus to return at any moment. They are looking for the rapture or signs of the great tribulation.

Many of them live in fear.

We Lutherans not so much.

We do confess in our creeds week after week "he will come again to judge the living and the dead," but do not discuss Jesus' 2nd coming much.

Maybe it is because of passages such as today's.

Jesus says to his followers "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.... Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming."

We often look at the first part, where Jesus says that no one knows the day or the hour, and ignore the 2nd part of keeping awake. Or we may not want his second coming to come so quickly.

This reminds me of this joke:

Ole called the airlines information desk and inquired, "How long does it take ta fly from Minneapolis to Fargo?"

"Just a minute," said the busy clerk.

"Vell," said Ole, "if it has to go dat fast, I tink I'll yust take da bus."

Who wants to live in a constant rush?

In the midst of this chaotic world would it not be nice to simply have peace on earth and goodwill to all?

Change is happening so quickly.

For instance, had any of us heard about A I (artificial intelligence) before?

It's getting more and more prevalent and a little scary.

There is so much dysfunction everywhere, such as in our government.

A lot of fear everywhere.

In the midst of it all, Jesus invites us to live both with the anticipation attitude of "are we there yet?" but also not to live on fear.

He says "Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

He invites us to live each day staying focused on him.

Living one day at a time.

We live in between the already and the not yet.

We can take comfort in that he has already come and lived and died and rose again for us, but also live in hope that he will come again to make all things right.

So "are we there yet?"

Not yet, but in the meantime we can live in the present loving and serving and supporting one another.

Enjoy the Advent and Christmas seasons focused on Jesus.

The seasons come and go but he is present always.

Keep coming back to worship and fellowship.

Keep hope alive.

Keep on keeping on.

Live for today. Amen.



1 Luke 1:1-4	2 John 1:1-5, 18	3 John 1:1-5, 18	4 Isaiah 9:6-7 & 11:1-5	5 Micah 5:2-4
6 Matthew 1:1-17	7 Luke 1:5-25	8 Luke 1:26-38	9 Luke 1:39-45	10 Luke 1:46-56
11 Luke 1:57-66	12 Luke 1:67-80	13 Luke 2:1-7	14 Matthew 1:18-25	15 Luke 2:8-21
16 Matthew 2:1-12	17 Luke 2:22-40	18 Matthew 2:13-15	19 Matthew 2:16-18	20 Matthew 2:19-23
21 John 1:6-8, 15	22 John 1:9-14	23 John 1:16-17	24 Isaiah 52:13- 53:12	25 Revelation 21:1-8