



Trinity Tidings

December 31, 2025

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Annual Reports available
Sunday, January 11

Budget Meeting Sunday,
January 18, after worship

Annual Meeting Sunday,
January 25, after worship

January 2026						
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, January 4

- Adult Bible Study 8 AM
- Worship 9 AM
- Trinity Times 10 AM
- Story Time 10 AM
- Sunday School 10 AM

Monday, January 5

Tuesday, January 6

- Financial Resources 6:30 PM
- Worship Committee 6:30 PM

Wednesday, January 7

- WIC 9 AM
- Confirmation Class 6:30 PM

Thursday, January 8

- Adult Bible Study 8:45 AM
- Quilting 10 AM
- Comfort Crafts & Friends 6 PM

Friday, January 9

Saturday, January 10

Sunday, January 11

- Adult Bible Study 8 AM
- Worship 9 AM
- Trinity Times 10 AM
- Story Time 10 AM
- Sunday School 10 AM

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday
8 AM - 12 noon
Other times by appointment



Thank you to all the volunteers
who helped with the Christmas
Eve and Day services.

Christmas Clean up is Satur-
day, January 10th at 8am. We
will be taking down the tree
and wreaths.

If you purchased a poinsettia
you are free to take it home if
you wish.



- **Susan Millard** - recovering from surgery
- **Billie Olson** - cancer
- **Mary Snyder** - health concerns
- **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
- **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
- **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
- **Leslie Larson** - uncle of Marta Wesenick, cancer
- **Kaden Wegner** - grandson of Michael Wegner, health concerns
- **Dixie Hill** - health concerns
- **Adam Lehmann** - health concerns

January FREE Community Meal

Sloppy Joes will be served on Wednesday, January 28, from 5 to 6 pm to the New London community.

We need donations of Sloppy Joe for this meal. There are 32 -ounce containers that you can place your Sloppy Joe donation in located in the entrance to the church sanctuary. Please take one or more of the containers and return them during office hours or during Sunday services. Place the Sloppy Joe in the upright freezer in the storage room in the Fellowship Hall by **Sunday, January 25.**

Other donations needed for the January meal are:

- * Fruit cups or apple sauce cups
- * Healthy snacks (e.g. raisins, craisins, dried fruit, granola/protein bars, jerky, etc.)
- * Desserts (packaged or homemade)
- * PLEASE NO NUTS and NO ITEMS REQUIRING REFRIGERATION.

Place these donations in the bin outside of church.



Would you like to share children's messages during worship? Look for a sign-up sheet at the Info Center after the holidays. If you need resources, we can help you with that!

Follow the Star

The premise is this: the magi followed the star to find baby Jesus, bringing their gifts. We are also seeking Jesus, trusting God can/does use many signs (or stars) to guide us closer to His Divine presence.

Take a star from the table in the Narthex. Each of the stars has a word on it. Trust the word that selects you. Don't look for or trade for a word you might prefer.

Place the star in a place you will frequently see it, such as a bathroom mirror, the car dash, a door, etc. Ponder this word and what its meaning might be for you as the year unfolds. It will be interesting to see how your word may influence or change you in some way. Leave the star up until next Epiphany to receive the full benefit of this word.



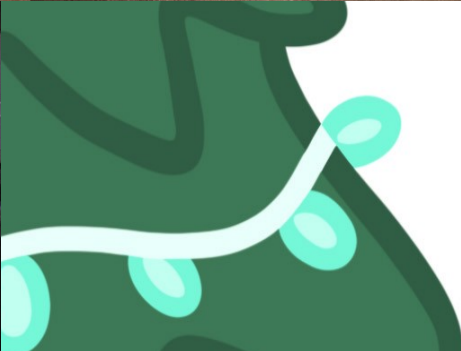
Trinity Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

January Sunday School

- **January 4 & 11:** Story time will be held in the library for children ages birth to 3K.
- **January 4:** Sunday School at 10 a.m.
- **January 11:** Sunday School at 10 a.m.
- **January 18:** Students will run Trinity Times fellowship today at 10 a.m. Bring some treats and enjoy some great fellowship with fellow church members. We'll bring some fun ice breaker games to encourage intergenerational conversations!
- **January 25:** Pajama day! Wear your coziest pajamas and join us for a Veggie Tales movie day in the Lower Level parents/guardians attend the Annual Meeting.

**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.*







Second Sunday of Christmas

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

⁷ Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north

and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back;
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock."

¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,

over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy;

I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

Psalm 147:12-20

¹² Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion,

¹³ who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.

¹⁴ God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁵ God sends out a command to the earth,
a word that runs very swiftly.

¹⁶ God gives snow like wool,
scattering frost like ashes.

¹⁷ God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand against God's cold?

¹⁸ The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

¹⁹ God declares the word to Jacob,
statutes and judgments to Israel.

²⁰ The LORD has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan

for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him

WITH ALL WISDOM AND
UNDERSTANDING,
HE MADE KNOWN TO US
THE MYSTERY
OF HIS WILL
EPHESIANS 1:8-9, NIV



you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Gospel: John 1:1-18

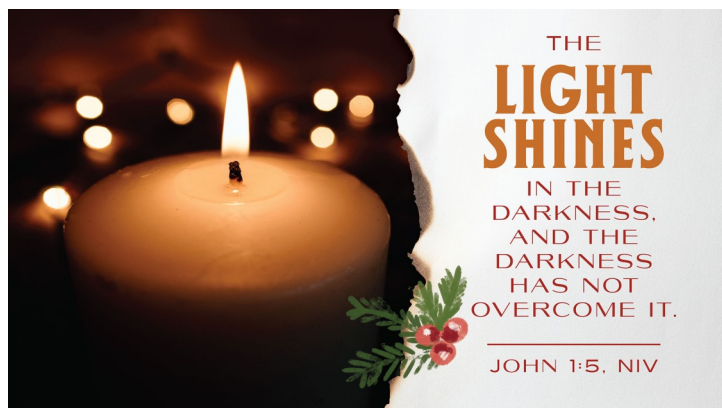
John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.



2nd Sunday of Christmas

An Episcopal diocesan bishop went to an unfamiliar church to celebrate the Eucharist. There was a microphone on the altar, and being uncertain whether it was switched on, he tapped it gently with no result. So leaning very close to it, he said in a loud whisper which echoed around the church: "There is something wrong with this microphone." The well-trained and responsive congregation, very familiar with the latest in liturgical language, replied at once, "And also with you."

Sometimes miscommunication happens.

Sometimes there are technical issues, such as with a microphone or sound system, or outages in our cell phone services, but other times we just do not listen to each other very well.

Many times texts and emails, though they are fast, efficient, and less intrusive means of communication, can be misinterpreted, as the tone can come across as short or harsh.

To have effective communication all parties must really be listening to one another.

Today we have the opening of the Gospel of John: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God."

The Greek word "logos" translated here as "word" has been translated in other ways as well.

"Divine communication," "reason," "wisdom," or "logic."

One interpretation that I find especially interesting is: "In the beginning was the conversation."

God speaks to enter into conversation with us.

God wanted to get through to us so he became flesh in the person of Jesus.

This is the mystery of the incarnation, God the Son becoming flesh.

The triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit was already in a loving relationship with one another.

After trying to get through to humanity through scripture and the prophets God decided to become human.

God became human to draw us into a closer relationship.

God gives us himself.

Can you imagine a better way for the creator of the universe to meet us where we are?

We have a God of relationship who wants to be in relationship with us.

That is the central message of The Bible from cover to cover.

The God who formed and restored relationship with his people Israel is the same God who came in Jesus who is with us now through the power of the Holy Spirit.

What is our response to this?

Prayer is available 24/7.

Gathering in worship now.

Serving at worship this Sunday

Ushers

Steve Dyreson, Woody Haag

Lector

Terry Wegner

Communion Assistant

Carol Cleveland

Musician

Sally McCormick

Slides

Clay Marsh

Livestream

Tom Vigil

Altar Guild

Dawn Hess

Bible Quiz

Complete this Bible verse: "The (1)____ (2)____ in the (3)____, and the (3)____ has not overcome it."

- A. (1) Word; (2) speaks; (3) silence
- B. (1) light; (2) shines; (3) darkness
- C. (1) kingdom of God; (2) reigns; (3) world
- D. (1) Spirit of God; (2) shines; (3) world
- E. None of the above



Answer: B (See John 1:5.)

In worship we hear the Word and receive God's grace in the Sacraments.

It is strengthening our relationship with God and one another.

It has been said "Worship isn't about one person speaking — it's about joining God's ongoing dialogue with creation."

Participating in this dialogue.

Then living it out in our relationships with one another.

We're just finishing up another Christmas season.

All of the material gifts we have shared are wonderful.

As we move forward we need to remember that the greatest gift we can give someone is our time.

Taking time out of our busy schedules to listen to one another.

Really listen without judgment or preconceived notions.

Listen to understand.

Jesus preached of course.

But he also listened to people.

He built relationships.

Finally, he as the Word made flesh gave his life on the cross and rose again.

He is still speaking to us today.

He is here in our relationships.

He wants conversation with us.

Are we listening? Amen.

Drawn to GOD'S WORD

BIBLE READING PLAN WITH CREATIVE PROMPTS

Our Creator excels at design and artistic expression.

As God's image-bearers, we can use our creative gifts to learn about and worship him.

With this yearlong Scripture-reading guide, you can draw, doodle, color, and journal as you reflect on God's Word. After reading the weekly Bible passages—which are grouped according to monthly themes—grab some markers, colored pencils, or pens to respond. Close each devotional time with prayer, thanking the Master Artist for making, sustaining, and blessing you!



JANUARY LIGHT

- ◇ Exodus 3:1-15
- ◇ Isaiah 9:1-7
- ◇ Matthew 5:14-16
- ◇ John 1:1-14

PROMPT: Draw or write about various sources of light mentioned in the Old and New Testaments.

FEBRUARY LOVE

- ◇ Psalm 36:5-10
- ◇ John 15:9-17
- ◇ 1 Corinthians 13:4-13
- ◇ 1 John 4:4-21

PROMPT: Draw or write some responses to God's unconditional, pure, just, and sacrificial love for you.



MARCH CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

- ◇ Psalm 32
- ◇ Psalm 51
- ◇ Matthew 18:21-35
- ◇ Ephesians 4:17-32

PROMPT: Draw or write about God wiping away and forgetting all your sins—and how that affects your everyday life.



APRIL HOPE

- ◇ Isaiah 40
- ◇ Job 19:23-27
- ◇ John 20
- ◇ Romans 5:1-11

PROMPT: Draw or write about the hope that Jesus' resurrection offers—and ask him to encourage and uplift you.



MAY COURAGE

- ◇ Daniel 6
- ◇ Mark 2:1-12
- ◇ Mark 4:35-41
- ◇ 1 Peter 5:6-11

PROMPT: Draw or write about fears or uncertainties that prevent you from experiencing a fuller relationship with God. Then boldly pray for his help to overcome those things.



JUNE PURPOSE

- ◇ Proverbs 16:1-9
- ◇ Matthew 4:18-22
- ◇ Romans 8
- ◇ Ephesians 1

PROMPT: Draw or write about the plans you see God unfolding in your life. Ask him to strengthen your trust in his perfect timing.

JULY FREEDOM & VICTORY

- ◇ Exodus 15:1-18
- ◇ Psalm 118
- ◇ 1 Corinthians 9:19-27
- ◇ Galatians 5:1, 13-26

PROMPT: Draw or write about the ways Jesus has set you free—and how you are a living testimony of his victory over death.



AUGUST WISDOM

- ◇ Proverbs 3
- ◇ Luke 2:41-52
- ◇ 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
- ◇ 2 Timothy 3:10-17

PROMPT: Draw or write about Biblical subjects and Godly characteristics you'd like to learn about in the year ahead (even if you're not still in school!).



SEPTEMBER PEACE

- ◇ Psalm 46
- ◇ Isaiah 55
- ◇ John 14:23-31
- ◇ Ephesians 2:11-22



PROMPT: Draw or write about promises in Scripture that sustain or restore your sense of calm when it gets rattled.

OCTOBER SERVICE

- ◇ Judges 6
- ◇ Proverbs 31:10-31
- ◇ Matthew 25:14-40
- ◇ 1 Corinthians 12:4-27

PROMPT: Draw or write about your God-given talents and interests—and ways to use them to glorify God and serve others.



NOVEMBER GRATITUDE

- ◇ Joshua 4
- ◇ Psalm 136
- ◇ Luke 17:11-19
- ◇ Colossians 3:12-17

PROMPT: Draw or write about unexpected blessings God has given you—including seemingly "bad" situations or circumstances he has worked out for good.

DECEMBER JOY

- ◇ Psalm 30
- ◇ Luke 1:46-55
- ◇ Luke 2:1-20
- ◇ 1 Thessalonians 5:5-28

PROMPT: Draw or write about the physical, emotional, and spiritual joys you experience throughout the Christmas season.

