



Trinity Tidings

January 15, 2026

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

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Budget Meeting
Sunday, January 18,
after worship

Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 25,
after worship

You are invited to a special edition of **Trinity Times** this **Sunday, January 18, 2026**. The gathering will be hosted by our **Sunday School** program in the **Fellowship Hall**. This is a wonderful opportunity to:

- Enjoy Delicious Snacks
- Engage in Fun Activities
- Build Community

We look forward to seeing the Fellowship Hall filled with laughter and conversation. Come support our youth and enjoy a morning of church family fellowship!



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 18

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

Monday, January 19

- Wolf River Quilters 10 AM

Tuesday, January 20

- Council 6:30 PM

Wednesday, January 21

- Confirmation Class 6:30 PM

Thursday, January 22

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

Friday, January 23

Saturday, January 24

Sunday, January 25

- Adult Bible Study 8 AM
- Worship 9 AM
- Annual Meeting 10 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



- **Barb Lehl** - health concerns
- **Susan Millard** - recovering from surgery
- **Billie Olson** - cancer
- **Mary Snyder** - health concerns
- **Annie Krueger** - mother of Samantha Kable, cancer
- **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, raisins, 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.

DRIVE-THRU CHILI FEED FUNDRAISER

\$10/Per Container

Includes Dessert, Sour Cream, Cheese and Crackers

Located At:

840 E North Water Street, New London

**JANUARY 24TH, 2026
11:00 am - UNTIL GONE**

**- SPONSORED BY:
AMERICAN LEGION POST 263**



The Financial Resources Committee is seeking a volunteer to succeed Mike Kohls as the bookkeeper for the **Gifts & Memorials** account. Mike will provide training for the responsibilities involved. This role requires a commitment of only a few hours per month, plus one monthly meeting.

Additionally, the committee is looking to expand its membership. If you have an interest in supporting our church's financial health, we invite you to join. Participation involves attending meetings as your schedule allows.

For more information, see **Mike Kohls, Kirk Van Dreel, Mark Moser, Amy Van Dreel, or Pastor Chuck.**



January Joy of Giving - Good Samaritan Fund



Good Samaritan
Fund

This ministry provides funds for people living within our community, administered by Pastor Chuck in the form of scrip cards that can be used for gas.

Examples of how it has been used in the past are a tank of gas for a job interview or a doctor's appointment.

Prayerfully consider this opportunity to help a neighbor in need.



Starting the new year out with our ongoing support of our New London school children and families.

Starting January 18 and running until February 15, we will have a box by the church office to place items for the Caring Closet at our school district. The items needed by the schools are:

- ♦ Leggings/joggers- (ages from 4K to high school)
- ♦ Hoodies - (ages from 4K to high school)
- ♦ Underwear - (ages from 4K to high school)
- ♦ Also a few XXL/XXXXL items for the high school
- ♦ They also could use gift cards from Walmart, Aldi, and Kwik Trip as there are times when unique needs arise for families. These gift cards can be put in the office in a designated envelope on Amy's desk.

We are blessed to be a blessing to others!

Thank you!
Support and Service Committee





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.*





Baptism of Our Lord

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.

- ¹ Listen to me, O coastlands;
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The LORD called me before I was born;
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
- ² He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.
- ³ And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
- ⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD
and my reward with my God."
- ⁵ And now the LORD says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—
- ⁶ he says,
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."
- ⁷ Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
"Kings shall see and stand up;
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Psalm 40:1-11

- ¹ I waited patiently upon the LORD,
who stooped to me and heard my cry.
- ² The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of
the miry clay,
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making
my footing sure.
- ³ The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of
praise to our God;
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their
trust in the LORD.
- ⁴ Happy are they who trust in the LORD!
They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow
lies.
- ⁵ Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my
God! In your plans for us, none can be compared
with you!
Oh, that I could make them known and tell them!
But they are more than I can count.
- ⁶ Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;
you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-
offering you have not required.
- ⁷ And so I said, "Here I am; I come.
In the scroll of the book it is written of me:
- ⁸ 'I love to do your will, O my God;
your law is deep within me.'"
- ⁹ I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;
I have not restrained my lips, O LORD, you know.
- ¹⁰ I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I
have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliver-
ance;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth
from the great assembly.
- ¹¹ You are the LORD; do not withhold your compas-
sion from me;
may your steadfast love and your truth continual-
ly keep me safe.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Though God's church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- ¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the
will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,
- ² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those
who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be
saints, together with all those who in every place call
on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord
and ours:
- ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of
the grace of God that has been given you in Christ
Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in
him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ⁶ just as

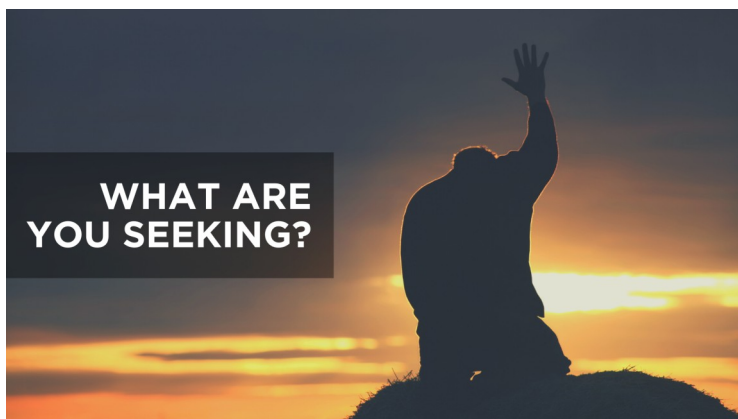
the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel: John 1:29-42

John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.

²⁹ [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel."³² And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him."³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!"³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?"³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed).⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).



What Are You Seeking?

"What are you seeking?"

These are the first words out of Jesus' mouth in the Gospel of John.

In John, Jesus' ministry does not begin with a mighty command to silence a demon, as in Mark; nor with a sermon to the crowds who have gathered on a mountain, as in Matthew; and not with a quotation from Isaiah to proclaim his anointing for the year of God's favor, as in Luke, but it begins with a question: "What are you seeking?" Or in other words "What are you looking for? What do you need?"

It is a question worth wrestling with — as individuals, as congregations, as communities. What are you seeking? What brings you here this morning? What motivates you? What is that you really need, not just on the surface, but deep down into the core of your being? What are you looking for?

Peace? Hope? Rest? Encouragement? Fellowship with other believers?

There are no right or wrong answers.

We're all looking for something.

Jesus asks this question to two of John the Baptist's disciples.

John had done his job of preparing the way for Jesus, now he is stepping aside out of the limelight and pointing his followers to Jesus.

It's not about me, John tells them.

He points to Jesus.

He is the Lamb of God; he is the one we have all been waiting for.

Therefore, they go follow Jesus.

He asks them the question and their response is another question: where are you staying?

They are not simply asking Jesus for the location of his tent, or the address of the guest house he is staying at. They are really looking for an enduring, permanent, eternal, relationship with the Lamb of God.

They want to be in the very presence of God.

Jesus says, "Come and see."

He invites them to know him better.

This is ultimately what we need the most: a relationship with God.

We can try to fulfill our needs with material stuff but it does not last.

We can try to fill our needs with alcohol, drugs, money, sex, power but none of it satisfies.

Only Jesus can.

We can experience him in our relationships with one another.

On January 1, 2008, Keith Severin and his 7-year-old son, Adrien, agreed that every day, for one whole year, they would spend at least 15 minutes searching together for treasure. The idea came to them when Keith came out of a store one day, and a guy asked him for change. Keith took about two steps from that spot and found a dime on the ground. It was a reminder that treasure is everywhere.

Keith and Adrien stuck to their plan—even when the weather wasn't favorable—and over the course of that year they stumbled upon plenty of loose change, bottles, a silver necklace, and a golf bag pull cart. By year's end they had amassed over \$1,000 worth of treasure through their 15-minute walks. But Keith says it was richer by far simply to grow in their relationship as father and son. "It was nice to spend some time with him and get to know him," Keith said in an interview. As they walked, they talked not about treasure, but about vacation, what's going on at home and school. They even dreamed up books they could write about their experiences together.

Ultimately it is relationships that we need.

Especially a relationship with God.

The triune God himself is a relationship, a relationship of love.

This love then extends to us.

This is what ultimately what we are all seeking, even if we do not acknowledge it.

The Westminster Confession that the Presbyterians use says:

"Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever."

St Augustine also put it well:

"Our hearts were made for you, O Lord, and they are restless until they rest in you."

While we wrestle with our various searches, Jesus, our crucified and risen Lord, says to us "come and see."

We can see him in the cross, his word, in worship, in sacrament.

He says, "Come, See, and stay." Amen.

Serving at worship this Sunday

Ushers

Peter Kurth, Jack Thurk

Lector

Amy Kuehl

Communion Assistant

Amy Kuehl

Musician

Sally McCormick

Slides

Myla Immel

Livestream

Mark Moser

Altar Guild

Dawn Hess

