

Trinity Lutheran Church, ELCA

Trinity Tidings

February 5, 2026



Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, February 8

Adult Sunday School 8AM
Worship 9AM
Story Time/Sunday School 10AM
Trinity Times 10AM
Technology Committee 10AM
Support & Service/TW-ELCA 10:15AM

Monday, February 9

Ruth Circle 7PM

Tuesday, February 10

Financial Resources 6:30PM

Wednesday, February 11

Confirmation Class 6:30PM

Thursday, February 12

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

Friday, February 13

SDNL Outreach Program 12noon

Saturday, February 14

Sunday, February 15

Adult Sunday School 8AM
Worship 9AM
Story Time/Sunday School 10AM
Trinity Times 10AM



Trinity Lutheran Church, ELCA

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www.trinitynewlondon.com

Rev. Dr. Charles Thompson pastor.trinitynewlondon@gmail.com; 920-273-5105

Secretary: Amy Van Dreel trinity.newlondon@gmail.com

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Trinity Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday - Thursday
8AM - 12noon

To be removed from this mailing, please contact the church office.



**On February 8, the first
Technology Committee
meeting will be after
worship in the fellowship hall.
Come and learn about how this
committee will support our other
ministries and support our
church operations.**

All are welcome.

10,105 Meals

A new milestone was reached by Trinity's Grab & Go meals ministry after the January 2026 meal. Trinity's Grab & Go meals has now served over 10,000 meals since its inception in 2020. In fact, 10,105 Grab & Go meals have been served to-date. A big thanks to everyone that has made this possible!

The next Grab & Go meal is on February 25 from 5-6 pm. Grandma Clara's hot dish will be served to meal participants. Grandma Clara's hot dish is a hearty meal made up of hamburger, fresh vegetables, and beans in a savory tomato base.



Prayers & Praises

Call or email with your requests

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 Schrempp - 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

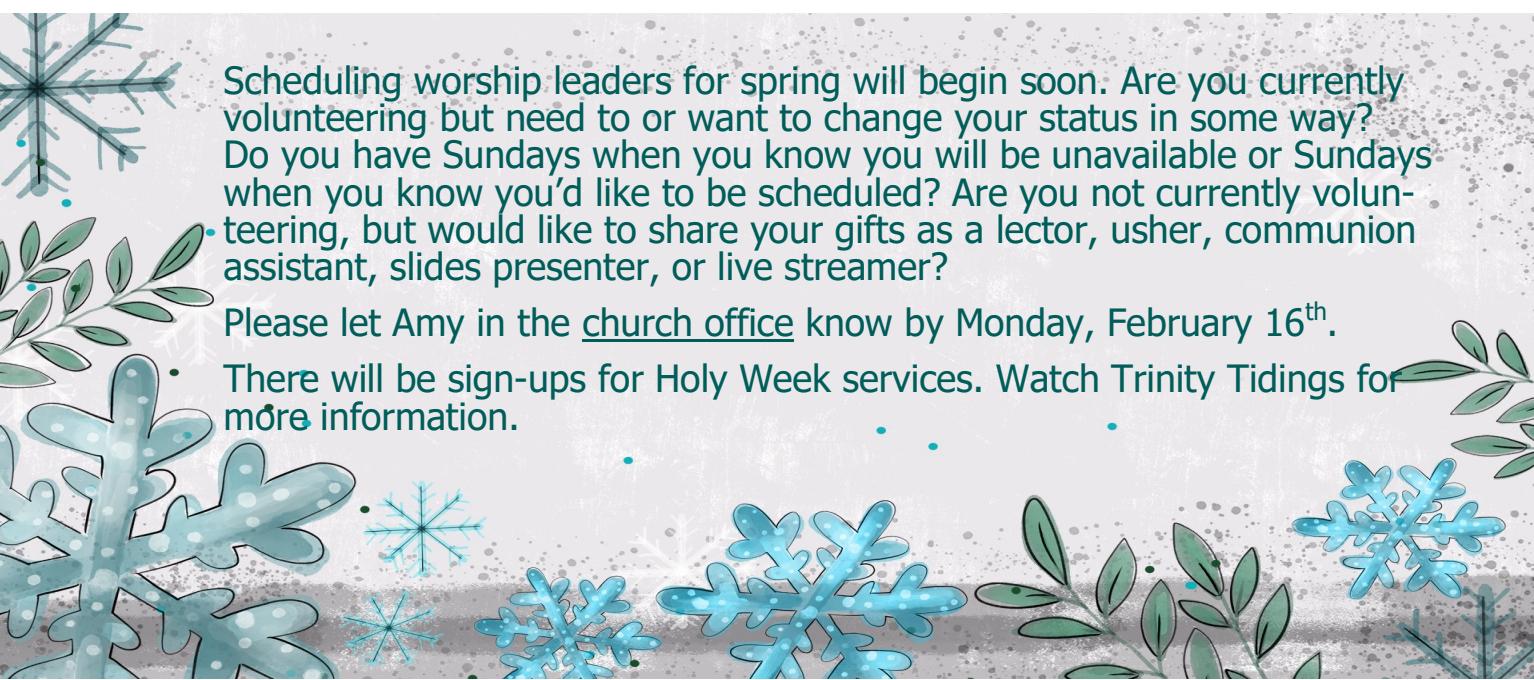
Dixie Hill - health concerns

Adam Lehmann - health concerns

Scheduling worship leaders for spring will begin soon. Are you currently volunteering but need to or want to change your status in some way? Do you have Sundays when you know you will be unavailable or Sundays when you know you'd like to be scheduled? Are you not currently volunteering, but would like to share your gifts as a lector, usher, communion assistant, slides presenter, or live streamer?

Please let Amy in the church office know by Monday, February 16th.

• There will be sign-ups for Holy Week services. Watch Trinity Tidings for more information.



How do we do the quilting mission at Trinity as an unbudgeted outreach?
Quilting for Lutheran World Relief mission quilts

Trinity's quilting group has completed over 125 quilts so far this year. This accounts for about 5,000 hours of donated teamwork so far. The material value of each finished quilt is about \$50-\$60. So the team has made about \$7,000 worth of quilts, giving generously of their time and abilities. If you were wondering how we get the money and supplies to support this ministry, we have been generously supported by donations from members and Thrivent action team donations. It really has become a community project with workers coming from the community and many material donations coming from community members who value our mission. There are currently between 12-15 women who work on this outreach mission. We meet weekly on Thursday mornings from 10-12 to work on the quilts although a few women put in long hours at home for us to have made this many quilts. **We are always in need and welcome helpers in any capacity!**

On behalf of the people around the world who receive our much needed quilts, I say thank you! And I invite any person interested in supporting this mission to either come to the church fellowship hall on Thursdays or contact me to set up a way for you to work from home.

Sue Krejcarek, Mission leader for LWR outreach
skrejcar@gmail.com 920-680-2399

Fifteen new residents at the **Mission of Hope House** will now receive a cozy, handmade welcome thanks to the **Comfort Crafters**. The facility includes an afghan in every resident's welcome basket to help them feel at home. Special thanks to our volunteers and yarn donors for supporting this meaningful mission.



Trinity's Joy of Giving for February is Lutheran Disaster Response

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response share healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disaster. Together, we can reflect Christ's light and hope to our neighbors in their time of need. Give today to support survivors in the United States and around the world, wherever and whenever a disaster may strike. [Learn more](#).

Like Lutheran Disaster Response on [Facebook](#) or follow @ELCA_LDR on [Instagram](#).

[Sign up](#) to receive Lutheran Disaster Response alerts.



School District of New London presents...

Tom Pease!

Friday, February 13
1 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church
709 W. Beckert Rd, New London

Free for all current & future 4K Students!

Please note time and location change from printed district calendar



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February Sunday School

- **Every Sunday in February:** Story time will be held in the library for children ages birth to 3K.
- **February 1:** Sunday School at 10 a.m. Students will have a mini-craft session for 15 minutes during Sunday School to make thank you hearts in preparation for next week's event.
- **February 8:** Soup for the Souper Bowl of Giving Day. Students are encouraged to attend worship at 9 a.m. to collect soup cans and other pantry items for the food pantry. Sunday School at 10 a.m.
- **February 15:** Sunday School at 10 a.m.
- **February 22:** Sunday School at 10 a.m.

*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 Scriptures

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

¹ Shout out; do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.
³ "Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.
⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?
⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."
^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.
¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Psalm 112:1-10

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!
² Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
³ Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness
will last forever.
⁴ Light shines in the darkness
for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.
⁵ It is good for them to be
generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.
⁶ For they will never be
shaken;
the righteous will be kept
in everlasting remembrance.
⁷ They will not be afraid of
any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
⁸ Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.
⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their right-

Even in darkness
light dawns
for the upright,
for those who are
gracious and
compassionate
and righteous.

Psalm 112:4, NIV

eousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.
¹⁰ The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear



... your
faith
should
not be in
the
wisdom
of men
but in the
power of
God.

1 Corinthians 2:5, NKJV

ing destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him"—
¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.
¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. ¹³ And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴ Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

¹⁶ "For who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?"

But we have the mind of Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

[Jesus said:] ¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."



December Notes

Salt of the Earth

Jesus said, "you are the salt of the earth."

What does this mean?

I do not know if I should feel flattered or insulted.

On the plus side, salt performs multiple positive functions: it can transform, give flavor to, preserve, and purify substances.

I like a little salt to add spice to meals.

I am grateful when salt is put on roads during icy or snowy conditions to make driving safer.

On the negative side I do not like all of the salt on my car.

My car looked worse than this one recently.

It is also not good for the body of a car.

Too much salt in food is not good for blood pressure and increases the risk of heart disease and stroke among other things.

What is Jesus getting at here?

For one thing salt does not exist for itself only, but to affect other elements.

To be his follower means that we as salt are to give flavor to others, preserving and purifying others.

Being a disciple means people of actions, not just words.

He is speaking against the religious leaders who loved to preach the law but would not follow it themselves, at least the parts of showing justice, kindness, and mercy to all.

Many of the leaders were collaborators with the Roman oppressors.

He is clear he is not against the law, but came to fulfill it, to apply it correctly.

He is empowering his follow-

ers to follow the heart of the law, which is loving God and neighbors.

Jesus is also telling us that communities of his followers do not exist solely for themselves.

They are to give flavor to others. No matter how powerless they may feel, they are not to live in retreat from or avoidance of the world. At that time they were living under Roman occupation. Their mission is to embody the kingdom of God that contests the status quo and envisions an alternative to the Roman way of "might makes right."

An alternative to a world where the rich oppress the poor.

Rule through violence.

God's kingdom is a kingdom of justice, mercy, and kindness.

Jesus is empowering his disciples to be a team that lives the kingdom.

A team in which everyone can be "salt" to one another as well as to the world around them.

How can we be salt of the earth today?

Certainly by being counter cultural as a church.

Being a community that embodies what is taught in the Scriptures: love, justice, mercy, compassion.

Showing love rather than hatred and division.

We are doing that here, when we participate in God's work in our congregation and community.

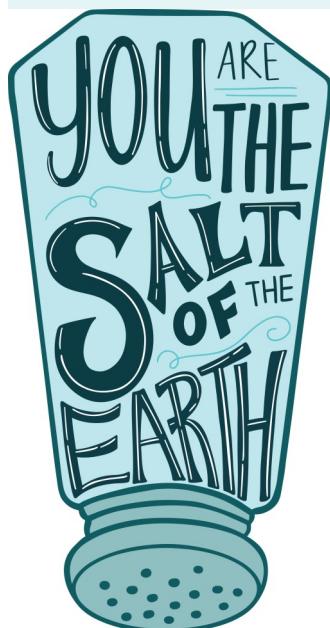
And we are now seeing an opportunity for salt to be spread throughout the world.

The Winter Olympics are starting.

Every time there are the Olympics we see examples of bravery, dedication, sportsmanship, hear inspiring stories of people overcoming the odds to win medals and inspire others.

This is a time fireworks to join together peacefully.

My favorite all time Olympic story is of the 1980 US Olympic Hockey team which upset the mighty Soviet Union and won the gold medal,





They were salt for a hurting nation.

Inflation was high, there was the ongoing Iranian hostage crisis.

This team of college kids inspired the nation.

Their coach, Herb Brooks, selected his team based upon how well they worked together, not always selecting the most talented players.

He molded a team to be like salt, to work together to make a difference.

His pregame speech before the game with the Soviets as seen in the movie "Miracle" was inspiring.

"Great moments are born from great opportunity.

And that's what you have here tonight, boys.

That's what you've earned here, tonight. One game.

If we played 'em ten times, they might win nine. But not this game. Not tonight.

Tonight, we skate with 'em.

Tonight, we stay with 'em, and we shut them down because we can!

Tonight, we are the greatest hockey team in the world.

You were born to be hockey players -- every one of ya.

And you were meant to be here tonight.

This is your time.

Their time -- is done. It's over.

I'm sick and tired of hearin' about what a great hockey team the Soviets have.

This is your time!!

Now go out there and take it!"

Almost makes you want to put skates on and hit the ice does it not?

Jesus tells us that we are salt.

We are on his team.

He has chosen us.

This is our time to make a difference through him.

He is working through us.

He died and rose again so that

we are the salt of the earth!

When we may feel inadequate, or mistakenly think that it's all about us and what we're doing, we are reminded by Jesus that HE is doing the work through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are the salt of the earth.

Each of us can make a difference, even in the smallest ways.

Let's spread some flavor! Amen.



Serving at worship this Sunday

Ushers
Dawn Hess, Bill Krejcarek

Lector
Lisa Graetz

Communion Assistant
Cindy Wolford

Musician
Alive Band

Slides
Mark Moser

Livestream
Tom Vigil

Altar Guild
Steph Friebohle