

# THE MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

~Welcome to Trinity Lutheran... Warm Hearts and Willing Hands~



Grace to you and peace, from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Being a disciple is more than just agreeing with a list of doctrines and beliefs. Being a disciple is a way of life.

It is about learning from the Teacher. It is following the Teacher's way of life. It is imitating the Teacher.

I intentionally capitalize Teacher because I am speaking about Jesus who is our great Teacher. At baptism we take on His name. We are Christians. At our confirmation we re-affirmed what our parents promised at our baptism- to immerse ourselves in the Word of God, to engage in fellowship with other Christians, and to work for justice in our world.

A lot has been happening in our country and now especially in Minnesota. People are asking, "where is the church in all of this?"

As I write this there is a prayer vigil happening in Minneapolis. A peaceful gathering - a fellowship of saints who seek solidarity with God and God's teachings. They are seeking a peaceful resolution to what is happening in our cities and our country.

There are a variety of titles for Jesus. One is Prince of Peace. If we are followers/disciples of Jesus then we are followers of peace.

I'm not saying that criminals shouldn't be ar-

rested but what ICE is doing right now is immoral, unjust, and goes against everything our country is founded on. They are using fear and violence to root out a few criminals. It no longer matters to ICE and U. S. government if you are here legally, if you have papers, if you have a passport, or if your family has been legal residents for generations.

Our scripture calls us - to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God. (Micah 6:8) so let us pray for peace and justice, stand up for peace and justice, show our faces and protest for peace and justice.

Peace in Christ

*Pastor Eunice*

# Lent

**Lent begins with Ash Wednesday worship on February 18 at 6:30 pm.**

We'd like to invite you to a family-friendly, multi-sensory worship service. Learning stations will remind us about Lent and God's love for us. Then join us every Wednesday at 6:30 for Holden Evening Worship and a Lenten message.

# COUNCIL MINUTES

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

President; Nikki Smith  
Vice President: Laurie Wille  
Secretary: Kathy Wilkening  
Financial Admin: Nikki Smith  
Christian Ed: Ashley Parish  
Ch Properties: Mark Durkee  
Stewardship: Margaret Durkee  
Lay Ministry: Donna Kotewa  
Worship: Yvonne Noorlun  
Youth: Ashley Parish



## Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting Wednesday January 14, 2026

Member Present: Kathy Wilkening  
Ashley Parish Yvonne Noorlun  
Nikki Smith Donna Kotewa

Pastors report Pastor Eunice did 3 church services in December. Met with baptism parents and taught confirmation class as Laurie was not able too. Visitation to the shut-in with communion. Worked on a special Epiphany worship arrangement and did some grief counseling.

Secretary Kathy Wilkening - Minutes were accepted as read.  
Treasurer Nikki Smith - December income was up \$1,242.89. Trinity came under budget by \$4,935 in 2025.

Stewardship None  
Lay/Ministry—Donna Kotewa  
Sending cards  
Church Properties None  
Youth/GIFT In December the GIFT program met twice.

December 17 was the Christmas program with a spaghetti meal afterwards. Nikki and Ashley delivered the gifts to the Ronald McDonald house in Sioux Falls December 18. The Youth had their Christmas party December 14. The Youth shopped and delivered gifts to the Truman Senior Living as well as caroling. They decorated gingerbread houses and had a gift exchange.

At the Christmas Eve service Ashley sang a solo as well as gave the message as a replacement for the pastor's absence. Thank you Ashley.

January 4th the Youth and Ashley prepared and conducted the worship service even though Ashley had a fall and a concussion..

GIFT on January 7 and 21 with Worship service on January 11 lead by the Youth.

Worship Yvonne Noorlun - Annual meeting January 18, install new leaders, January 25. February 1 baptism and February 18 Ash Wednesday service at 6:30.

March 15 Pastor Heather Culuris from the Synod will lead us.

A huge Thank you to Margaret Durkee and Ashley Parish for a wonderful candle light service during our Christmas Eve service due to Pastor Eunice's absence.

## OLD BUSINESS:

Nikki Smith arranged the bonus for church employees.

Ashley motioned to accept the 2026 Proposed Budget and Yvonne second.

## NEW BUSINESS:

President Nikki Smith is authorized to go to Profinium Bank to correct the signatures on the different checking accounts.

Main Checking: Brenda Hansen Nikki Smith Laurie Wille, Take off Josh Tonkin

WELCA: Sandy Meyer Barb Shoen Kathy Wilkening

Youth Group: Ashley Parish Carlee Scheff, take off Caitlyn Carlson and Allison Klasson

Gifts and Memorials: Brenda Hansen and Cathy Sorenson

GIFT: Brenda Hansen Nikki Smith

Savings: Brenda Hansen Teresa Hall Nikki Smith

## CHANGE THE ACCOUNT NAME FROM ROOFING TO GENERAL SAVINGS

Submitted by Secretary  
Kathy Wilkening



## Treasurer's Summary Report As of December 31, 2025

Checking Account Bal.	\$56,138
Savings Account Bal.	\$69,256

### DECEMBER:

General Fund Income	\$ 7,906
General Fund Expenses	\$ 7,538
Net long	\$ 368

### JANUARY:

Cash Available	\$56,138
Bills to pay	\$ 6,792
Cash long	\$49,346

# WE WORSHIP TOGETHER

## SCRIPTURE READINGS – FEBRUARY

DATE	1ST READING	PSALM	2ND READING	GOSPEL
Feb 1st-4 Epiphany	Micah 6:1-8	15	1 Cor 1:18-31	Matt 5:1-12
Feb 8th-5 Epiphany	Isa 58:1-9a[9b-12]	112:1-9[10]	1 Cor 2:1-12[13-16]	Matt 5:13-20
Feb 15-Transfiguration	Exod 24:12-18	Ps 2 or Ps 99	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matt 17:1-9
Feb 18-Ash Wed	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	51:1-17	2 Cor 5:20b—6:10	Matt 6:1-6, 16-21
Feb 22-1st Lent	Gen 2:15-17;3:1-7	32	Rom 5:12-19	Matt 4:1-11

## Youth Director Newsletter February 2026



It seems that January went by very fast. We have been busy with family, school, hockey, and a first for us...PROM DRESS shopping! I cannot believe that I have a daughter old enough to go to prom! It makes me both happy and sad at the same time. Both my mom and my husband's mom were there and I was very grateful that both grandmas were able to be a part of such a special day. I remember wishing that my grandma could have went dress shopping with me, so I do not take for granted the times that grandparents get to be a part of a special event. I am reminded that just as I want time to slow down for my daughters, my parents once wished that for my brothers and I. It motivates me to try to make the most of each moment with my kids. I try to check-in with them, laugh and smile with them, tell them how I proud I am of them, and of course remind them that they are very loved.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the Youth-Led worship service on January 11th, you all made me so proud!

Events:

February 4th GIFT at 2:15pm-5:30pm

February 15th-February 16th Youth Group

Pajama Party Lock-in from 8pm-9am

February 18th GIFT at 2:15pm-5:30pm

\*Note: There will be no GIFT on March 4th due to Spring Break



Youth-Led Worship on January 11th at Trinity

*Ashley Parish-Youth Director*

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Worship Service at 10:00 am  
Live streamed on our FB page

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Mon-8-11  
Wed-8-11, 1-4  
Fri-8-11



March 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				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <u>Communion</u> Baptism of Lauren Mae Flohrs	2 Groundhog DAY	3 9 am Open Bible Study at the church  Join our Bible Study	4 GIFT Class 2:15-5:30	5	6	7
					<b><u>Acolytes for February</u></b> Feb 1– Gabby G. & Sophia C Feb 8– Liam & Grayson Werner Feb 15 - Sydney B & Alex Ebert Feb 22 - Callie P & Jackson H	
8 <u>Communion</u>	9	10 9:30 WELCA Meeting	11 Confirmation class 4-5:15 7 pm Church Council mtg.	12	13	14
15	16 Newsletter DEADLINE!	17	18 GIFT Class 2:15-5:30  ASH Wednesday 6:30 pm	19	20 WRAPPED IN HOPE. COVERED IN PEACE.	21
22 <u>Communion</u>	23 9 am Quilting Days (bring a sack lunch)	24 9 am Quilting Days	25 Confirmation class 4-5:15 Lent Supper 5:15-6:15 Lenten Worship 6:30 pm	26 <u>February Ushers</u> Tom Kneeland & Dan Smith	27 <u>February Lay Readers</u> 2/1 Brenda H 2/8-Sandy M 2/15-Jan R 2/18-?? 2/22-LeAnn	28 <u>Communion Servers</u> 2/1- Cathy S 2/8-Dave S 2/18- Sandy M 2/22-Donna K



## WELCA News

Barb Shoen has been the faithful president of WELCA for many years. Barb's faithful service and kind heart are a true reflection of God's love in action. May the Lord continue to strengthen you, reward your labor, and fill your heart with joy Barb. Thank you! Barb has turned over the presidency to Kathy Wilkening. I pray I will do half as good a job as Barb did.

Thanksgiving Eve service we served pie and coffee after service. Thank you WELCA ladies for the pies.

The cookie walk was a huge success. Thank you to all the women who donate their time and talent to make so many beautiful scrumptious cookies. To all the ladies who decorated the church for our Holiday season. It looked lovely. \$2,100 from the cookie walk was donated to 14 different organizations. January 26 and 27 will be sewing days again this year. On Monday the 26th will be a bag lunch day and Tuesday we plan to go out to eat. Everyone is invited to help sew. There are many different jobs to do. So even if you do not know how to quilt we will find something for you to do. Come join a fun bunch of ladies serving the Lord with their talents.

Reminder to bring food for the school food shelf. List of ideas are on the table.

~Kathy Wilkening

## TRINITY'S NEW LEADERSHIP FOR 2026

<b>President 2026:</b>	<b>Nikki Smith</b>
<b>Vice President 2026:</b>	<b>Laurie Wille</b>
<b>Secretary 2026:</b>	<b>Kathy Wilkening</b>
<b>Financial Admin:</b>	<b>Nikki Smith</b>
<b>Christian Ed:</b>	<b>Worship:</b>
Nikki Smith +++	Jan Ringeisen
Ashley Parish	Linda Meyer
<b>Elisabeth Carlson</b>	Yvonne Noorlun++
	<b>Brenda Hansen</b>
<b>Stewardship:</b>	<b>Youth:</b>
Margaret Durkee++	Carlee Scheff
David Sorenson	Ashley Parish+++
<b>Robin Miller</b>	
<b>Lay Ministry:</b>	<b>Church Properties:</b>
Donna Kotewa ++	Mark Durkee ++
LeAnn Maloney	Brian Nickerson
<b>Kim Hastad</b>	Brad Nickerson
	<b>Mike Heckman</b>

**Bold** represents new members.  
(+) represents Council representative

### Nominating Committee for 2026:

Nikki Smith (Chairman), Eloise Miller, Linda Carlson, Yvonne Noorlun, Cathy Sorenson and Rhonda Bonk.

### UPDATE ON THE GROCERY RECEIPTS:



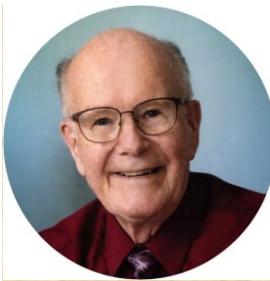
**Fareway-\$110,191.08**

**Hy-Vee-\$99,473.36**

*Keep those receipts coming!!*

*\*\*Please make sure the receipts are not getting cut off -- this makes them useless.*

# NEWS FROM OUR PARISH



Our sympathy to the Rich family at the death of Rev. Lyle Rich, former pastor of Trinity. He passed away on January 8th at the age of 93 in Menomonie, WI. Rev Rich served at Trinity from 1964 to 1976. You can find his obit at [Olsonfuneral.com](http://Olsonfuneral.com). Cards can be sent to: Naomi Rich Hall, 949 California Ave. W., St. Paul, MN 55117

## THANK YOU!

For your memorials and also to my entire Trinity Church Family for your prayers and support at the death of my daughter, Amy Teetzel.

~Lois Lloyd and family



The Trinity Youth Group went to Fairmont Ice Rink to "Open Skate" on Sunday, January 25, 2026. Those who attended were Mitchell & Maverick Scheff, Collyn Vogel, Gabby Greier, Parker Sandwick, Callie Parish, Loriah Young, Sophia Carlson, Mariel Parish, Carter Werner, Addy Urban, and Liam Werner pictured along with in front was Zaleigh Hodge. Nikki Smith, Carlee Scheff & Ashley Parish were the chaperones.



**Linnea Huss has moved. Her new address is:**



**Good Samaritan Society-Pleasant View  
1000 2nd Street South, Rm #204  
St. James, MN 56081**



*We remember in our prayers...all who face catastrophic illness, surgery, and bindings of all kinds as well as the homebound:*

**Jerry Teig, Norman & Marilyn Anderson,  
Linnea Huss, and Dan Strausser,  
Be present with your Spirit, Lord, and lead  
us to be your presence to all. Amen.**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 	3 Emma Wiederhoeft	4 Joyce Jorgenson	5	6 Charlotte Foster	7
8	9	10 Jim Hansen	11 Mark Durkee David Sorenson	12	13	14 
15 Transfiguration Sunday 	16 	17	18 	19	20	21 Madelyn Mooney
22 Karen Strausser	23 	24	25	26 Sandy Fisk Lowell Noorlun	27 Dean Ehlert	28

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## WHAT'S INSIDE

- 1 Pastor's Letter
- 2 Council Minutes
- 3 Worship/Youth Director
- 4 February Calendar
- 5 WELCA News/Council
- 6 Parish News
- 7 February Birthday/Anniv.

Address Service Requested



Scan code to Give!

## THE MESSENGER

February 2026

A graphic for Ash Wednesday. The left side is purple with a white cross inside a black oval. The text "ASH Wednesday" is written in white. The right side is a black and white photograph of a concrete cross lying on a textured surface. At the bottom left, there is a white box containing a quote from Psalm 51:10, NIV: "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." The quote is written in a cursive script.

**trinity Lutheran**  
**CONTACT**

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**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**  
MON 8-11, WED 8-11 & 1-4, FRI 8-11

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**Office Administrator:** Brenda Hansen  
**Council Pres. - Nikki Smith**

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Council Pres. Cell: 507-230-3703  
 Pres. Email: [nikdsmith@hotmail.com](mailto:nikdsmith@hotmail.com)

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Pastoral Care Team- 507-776-8555  
 Pastor Eunice Woodberry-320-290-5775  
 Email: [craftypastor08@gmail.com](mailto:craftypastor08@gmail.com)

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**SOCIAL**

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