

THE MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

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



Happy New Year!

While we might think that the holiday season is over, there is one more church holiday before we reach Lent. We are finishing up the 12 Days of Christmas and then we have Epiphany (January 6). It is the day we celebrate the journey of the wisemen. Epiphany means reveal. First the wisemen saw an unusual star. As astrologers they had studied the stars and knew of a prophecy that told of an unusually bright start that heralded the birth of a king.

We don't know if these men traveled together or discovered each other on the way, but we do know that they packed for a long journey and brought gifts fit for the newborn king. As they came to Judea it was natural for them to stop in Jerusalem, the capital city. That surely was where they would find the king and they did, but this king was not a baby. It was King Herod, the king appointed by the Roman government. When the wisemen asked about the baby that had been born King of the Jews, Herod fell into a state of fear. Would this new king replace him? Would he lose all his power and wealth? As Herod sent the wisemen off to Bethlehem he asked them to bring back news of the baby's location so that he could go pay his respects. But we know that Herod was already plotting to keep his power and position by killing the baby. He tried. He even had all baby

boys two years old and younger killed just to make sure he got the right one.

But God had other plans which he revealed to the wisemen and to Jesus' father Joseph. After worshipping King Jesus and giving him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh the wisemen went home avoiding Jerusalem and King Herod. Joseph packed up Mary, Jesus, and the wisemen's gifts and sought refuge in Egypt. Under God's protection the Holy Family lived there until God revealed that it was safe to return home.

Epiphany is full of stories of faith. The wisemen, in faith, follow a star. A divine message obeyed as the wisemen return on a different route. A father trusts God to protect his family in a foreign land. And maybe most important, the first revelation of God's plan of salvation to men from outside the Jewish religion. The promise of Messiah - Redeemer - Savior was given through the Jewish prophets to the Jewish people but God's intent was and is that salvation from sin, death, and the devil would be for all people and all of creation. Jesus came as a gift for all of creation and now we wait for his second coming when all will finally be as God intended - full of life and free from sin. And so we await. Come, Lord Jesus!

Peace in Christ

Pastor Eunice

COUNCIL MINUTES

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President; Nikki Smith

Vice President: N/A

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 December 10, 2025

Member Present: Kathy Wilkening
Ashley Parish Mark Durkee
Margaret Durkee, Yvonne Noorlun
and Nikki Smith

Pastor Report- Planning Sunday services and Thanksgiving Eve. Visitation by phone and encouraging texts. Upcoming Scheff baptism and Mason Kelley's funeral,

Secretary- Kathy Wilkening- Mark motioned to accept as read and Yvonne second.

Treasurer-Nikki Smith- The organ fund has \$3,060 after paying for the new organ. This money can be used for the upkeep of the organ and or tuning of the piano. The Organ Fund Challenge is now complete. The monthly income for November is up \$8,557.42.

Stewardship-Margaret Durkee - Stewardship pledges were down from 2024. All the packets are back and talent sheets will be compiled.

Properties-Mark Durkee - Mark gathered all the leaves into huge piles and Mike Heckman gathered the piles. Brian Nickerson will be removing the snow.

GIFT/Ed Ashley Parish - GIFT was November 5th and 19th. The kids shopped at Dollar General for Christmas gifts for the Ronald McDonald House in Sioux Falls. December 3rd and 17th are the next meetings The Christmas Program will be on the 17th with a meal to follow. Ashley and her girls helped with the church service on November 23. Thank you so much Ashley.

Youth-Ashley Parish -Twelve youth baked 12 dozen cookies/goodies on November 30th for the cookie walk as well as delivered some cookies in the community. December 14 the youth will have their Christmas party and plans are to go caroling, shopping and visiting residents. December 18 the shopping gifts will be delivered to Ronald McDonald in Sioux Falls.

Worship-Yvonne Noorlun - Cathy and Dave Sorenson bought the poinsettias to adorn the church. Thank you, Dave and Cathy. December 17 is the GIFT Christmas program with a meal to follow. December 21 baby Scheff will be baptized. December 24 Candlelight worship at 6:00. December 28 will be hymn sing with Tanner. January 11 possible youth led service.

January 18 is the Annual Meeting after church service.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

Worked on the budget for 2026. Nikki Smith will check at Profinium to see who is on all the different checking accounts Trinity has. She will get the appropriate signatures on the accounts. Will check with Brenda about getting an extra key for the front door. Reminder to all members when putting boxes or trash in the outside trash bin to consolidate so the church does not have to call West Central Sanitation as often for dumping. Put as much as possible into the recycling. Margaret made a motion that the year end bonus for staff should come from Covid Grant Fund account. Mark second.

Submitted by Secretary
Kathy Wilkening



Treasurer's Summary Report As of November 30, 2025

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Checking Account Bal. | \$54,986 |
| Savings Account Bal. | \$69,190 |

NOVEMBER:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| General Fund Income | \$ 15,825 |
| General Fund Expenses | \$ 6,968 |
| Net long | \$ 8,857 |

DECEMBER:

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Cash Available | \$54,986 |
| Bills to pay | \$ 6,862 |
| Cash long | \$48,124 |

WE WORSHIP TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE READINGS – NOVEMBER

| DATE | 1ST READING | PSALM | 2ND READING | GOSPEL |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|-------------------|
| Jan 4-Epiphany | Jer 31:7-14 | 147:12-20 | Eph 1:3-14 | John 1:[1-9]10-18 |
| Jan 11-Jesus Baptism | Isa 42:1-9 | 29 | Act 10:34-43 | Matt 3:13-17 |
| Jan 18-2nd Epiphany | Isa 49:1-7 | 40:1-11 | 1 Cor 1:1-9 | John 1:29-42 |
| Jan 25-3rd Epiphany | Isa 4:1-4 | 27:1,4-9 | 1 Cor 1:10-18 | Matt 4:12-23 |



Youth Director Newsletter January 2026



GIFT CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 2025

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year! We spent the holidays with family and then went to a hockey tournament.

On December 14th the Youth Group had a Christmas party. We went shopping for gifts for the residents at Truman Senior Living. We also went caroling, decorated gingerbread houses, ate pizza and had a gift exchange.

We had our GIFT Christmas program and supper on December 17th. Thank you to everyone who helped!

GIFT resumes on January 7th!

On January 11th, the youth will be leading the church service. If any youth are willing to help, that would be wonderful! Please let me know if you can help.

Events:

1/7/26 GIFT 2:15pm-5:30pm

1/11/26 Youth led service at 10am

1/21/26 GIFT 2:15pm-5:30pm

Ashley Parish-Youth Director



Youth Group shopping for gifts. (Back-left)- Carter Werner, Mariel Parish, Collyn Vogel, Callie Parish, Parker Sandwick, Loriah Young, Gabby Greier. (Front left)-Judah Dague, Liam Werner and Addy Urban

Acolytes for January

Jan 4– Taelynn & Gage Moon
 Jan 11– Sydney B & Alex Ebert
 Jan 18 - Jackson H & Callie P
 Jan 25 - Grayson W & Zach S



February 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 |

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| <u>WORSHIP SCHEDULE</u> Worship Service at 10:00 am Live streamed on our FB page | <u>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS</u> Mon-8-11 Wed-8-11, 1-4 Fri-8-11 | | Thank you once again to JoAnn Knutson for knitting most of the hats and mittens for our Giving Tree! | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Communion Three Kings Party & Worship 10 am | 5 Deadline for Committee reports for the annual meeting booklet | 6 9:45 Open Bible Study | 7 GIFT Class 2:15–5:30 | 8 | 9 | 10 <small>PSALM 73:24, NIV</small> |
| 11 Jesus' Baptism | 12 | 13 | 14 Confirmation Class 4-5:30 7 pm Church Council mtg | 15 | 16 Newsletter | 17 |
| 18 Communion A short worship service will be held before mtg | 19 | 20 | 21 GIFT Class 2:15–5:30 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Communion Installation of New Leadership | 26 9 am → Quilting | 27 9 am Quilting | 28 Confirmation Class 4-5:30 | 29 <u>Jan. Comm Servers</u> 4-Mark D 18-Ross R 25-YvonneN | 30 <u>Jan Ushers</u> Jim Hansen & Mike Heckman | 31 <u>Jan Lay Readers</u> 4-Dave S 11-Youth 18-Laurie W 25-Margaret |



WELCA News

If you have a child of three to a senior and they have not received a greeting card from “a Trinity friend” this past year, let either Barb Shoen or Cathy Sorenson know.

Thanks to all that baked goodies for the cookie walk, donated, worked, or bought cookies. If you missed doing anything to help, you can still send a donation to the church. The following organizations will receive a donation from the proceeds:

Salvation Army

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon

Hospice

Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran Social Service

Options Pregnancy Center

Heaven's Table

CREST

Caring Bridge

Truman School Food Shelf

Bravo Zulu House

Truman Pool

Healing Hearts and STEP

All women belonging to Trinity are automatically members of the WELCA. If you are retired, we urge you to attend the meetings which are held four times a year in the morning of the 2nd Tuesday. The 2026 WELCA handbooks are in your mailboxes.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

~Barb Shoen

COOKIE WALK 2025



UPDATE ON THE GROCERY RECEIPTS:



Fareway-\$109,417.98

Hy-Vee-\$98,855.19

Keep those receipts coming!!

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

NEWS FROM OUR PARISH



(L-R) Maverick, Mitchell, Henry, Carlee, Cameron, Pastor Eunice and Garrett.

Congratulations to Hendrix (Henry) Lee Scheff on his baptism which took place on December 21, 2025 at Trinity Lutheran. His parents are Carlee & Mitchell Scheff. His sponsors are Cameron Forbrook and Garrett Balcom. Henry was born on November 7, 2025. He has a big brother Maverick who is 2 years old. Grandparents from Trinity are JoDee & Kent Lewis.



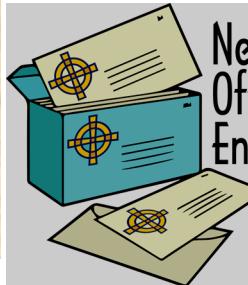
Our deepest sympathy to the Karen Strausser

family at the death of her nephew Brad, who died in a car accident by St. Cloud MN. The accident happened around December 6th. Brad was in his early 40's and was engaged to be married.



**Join us on Sunday,
January 4, 2026
at 10 a.m.**

**Three Kings Party and Worship
We will join together in the
Fellowship Hall and celebrate with
Kings Cake and beverages,
sing seasonal songs,
celebrate with Holy Communion
and worship the King of Kings -
Jesus our Savior**



New
Offering
Envelopes

Your 2026 offering envelopes are in your mailboxes at the church. If you would like them mailed to you, or if you would like more or less or did not receive any, please contact the church office.



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, Dan Strausser, and Marlene Breitbarth.

Remember to...

**Give
Online**



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|-------------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| | | | | | 2 | 3 Ron & Kaela Kelley (11 years) Marlene Breitbarth Heather Maloney |
| 4 Emilee Mosloski Kathy Wilkening | 5 | 6 Christopher Forbrook EPIPHANY | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 The Baptism of Jesus Austin Maloney Brad Nickerson Brian Nickerson Gracie Zaharia Johnnie Zaharia | 12 Peyton Franzen | 13 Kaden Moon | 14 | 15 Caitlyn Carlson | 16 Marlene Ratike (93 years) | 17 STILL BEFORE THE LORD and wait PATIENTLY for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. PSALM 37:7, NIV |
| 18 | 19 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY | 20 | 21 | 22 Denise Jansen | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Peyton Brudelie | 26 Doug & Vicki Schwanz (52 years) | 27 | 28 Cordae Mesa | 29 | 30 Ava Rolling | 31 |

TRINITY LUTHERAN PARISH (ELCA)
102 NORTH 7TH AVENUE EAST
PO BOX 38
TRUMAN MN 56088
www.trinity-truman.org



U.S. POSTAGE
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FOR
DELIVERY



WHAT'S INSIDE

- 1 Pastor's Letter
- 2 Council Minutes
- 3 Worship/Youth Director
- 4 January Calendar
- 4 WELCA News/pictures
- 7 Parish News
- 8 January Birthday/Anniv.

Address Service Requested



Scan code to Give!

