

~TRINITY TIDINGS~

Official publication of Trinity Lutheran Church
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New Beginnings

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! –

2 Corinthians 5:17

Do you ever think about why we celebrate New Year's Day? It's really just another day, so why is it so important for people to mark a date change on a calendar?

January, to some of us, is the most important month of the year. It seems like a natural time for beginning something, which is why lots of people make New Year's resolutions.

The Christian life offers lots of opportunities for fresh starts, for changing what we've been doing or beginning to live differently. Each week in worship, we begin with a time of confession where we admit what we've done wrong. We admit to God and to each other that our lives are not perfect, that we're not living the way we ought to live, that we're doing things we ought not do and failing to do things we ought to do.

Then, immediately after confession, in our Divine Service, we hear God's response. We hear the good news that because of God's forgiveness, because God loves us, we all get a fresh start. Psalm 103:12 says God has taken our sins away from us *"as far as the east is from the west."* The slate is wiped clean. We don't need to carry the weight of our sins or guilt with us anymore. We are forgiven! We remember God's love and that God never gets tired of forgiving us!

In *The Small Catechism*, Martin Luther said we ought to begin each day in this way:

"In the morning, as soon as you get out of bed, you are to make the sign of the holy cross and say: 'God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit watch over me. Amen.' Then, kneeling or standing, say the Apostle's Creed and the Lord's Prayer...After singing a hymn, or whatever else may serve your devotion, you are to go to your work joyfully."

You don't have to wait for a new year to have a fresh start. Each day offers the opportunity to wake up and remember that you are a baptized child of God. You have been claimed, redeemed, and set free by Jesus Christ. After hearing the promise of forgiveness and absolution in worship, we give thanks to God in song and by learning more about God's grace and love for us by hearing God's word. See you in worship! ¹

And we get a fresh start with our Call Committee. They again will work on calling a pastor to serve Trinity. The Lord already has in mind who He wants to serve here. You can rest assured by His promise on that.

Blessings on your 2026,

Pr Bob

¹ Most of the words in this article are from Rev Daniel Flucke

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PLEASE NOTE: In the event of an emergency, and you cannot reach the church office, you may call Pastor Bob on his cell phone at 219-510-7288.

BIBLE STUDY continues with Pastor Bob in the church fellowship hall at 10:40am. All are invited to join him studying the books of *1 & 2 Timothy* and *Titus*.

TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY BEGINS MEETING ON TUESDAY JANUARY 6TH at 6:30pm in Room 18, (the Music Room) to conclude the study on "The Chosen." All are invited to join us! For more information contact Jon Bush at ophiclide.tuba@gmail.com

THE ADULT NAVIGATOR CONTINUES SUNDAY, MORNINGS after the Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall. Please join Randy Daberkow in this Bible Study.

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JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Saturday Evening 5:30pm

Sunday Morning 9:00am

A time of fellowship follows each service



~~NEWS ABOUT OUR PEOPLE~~

Our prayers have been with the following members and friends who have been ill and/or hospitalized: Lynda McGown (ELA Teacher) Joyce Rael (TLS Teacher), Debby Daberkow Stacey Freeman (TLS Teacher) , Steven Dehen Shirley Ranus, Lorna Romero, Pastor Bob, Barb Osterman, Alice LaRose, Henrietta Voss, David & Connie Boden, Norma Larson, Harriet Avis, Faralynn Koncilia, Shirleen Pape, Jacob Freeman, Cindy Schmidt, Rose Sears, Rick & Anita Lawrenz, Marcie Wright, Victor Voss, Melanie Trujillo, Joyce Michelli, Lucille Cochran, Adella Schmidt, Amy Coulson May God continue to strengthen and heal them.

Special prayers for Jacob of Colorado Springs battling leukemia and Dalton Brey, Harriet Avis's grandson in the military.

Let us also lift up in joy and thanksgiving to God our Heavenly Father all the families and children in Trinity Lutheran Church, School, and ELA.

~ JANUARY BIRTHDAYS ~

2-Jeanine Bolt	14-Terri Beeman
3-Jacob Ahlin-Pineda	15-Jacob Brunner
6-John Meyer	19-Kent Schmidt
9-Emily Giebel	20-Matthew Lawrenz
11-Joyce Michelli	29- Tobias Meyer
13-Lindsey Sheppard	31-Randy Bolt

GOD'S BLESSINGS TO YOU!



JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

01/01 Joan & Javier Quintana (24)

CONGRATULATIONS AND

***GOD'S BLESSINGS AS YOU CONTINUE YOUR
WALK WITH THE LORD!***



TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL

&

EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY



"Make a Joyful Noise" Psalm 100:1

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!"



National Lutheran Schools Week is the last week in January. A special chapel will be on Monday, January 26th to kick off the week of celebrating Lutheran Schools and Mongolia. Watch for more news in the church newsletter.



UP DATE FROM TRINITY SCHOOL AND ELA!

Monday, December 15th Trinity Lutheran School (TLS) and Early Learning Academy (ELA) presented ***THE FIRST CHRISTMAS***

Songs included "El Burrrito Sabenero", Let Us Tell the Story", "The Straw Carol", "Away in the Manger", "Come to See the Newborn King", and "Hallelujah! He Is Born!"

Each grade had a special Recitation to tell about
THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

Tuesday evening, December 16th Trinity Lutheran School Grades 2-6 presented

"STILL, STILL, STILL"

"Quiet, Quiet Town", "His Name Is Jesus!", "Just Like Me", "Go Tell It on the Mountain", Feliz Navidad", and "Cascabeles" were sung by the children.

We were then invited to **BE STILL**,...and Hear a Father Welcoming,...A Mother Praying...Hear a Baby Crying...Hear the Angels Praising...Hear the Shepherds Talking...and Hear God's People Rejoicing.

The TLS Band opened the Christmas program with the progression of a band. From a "cacphony of

noise"...progressing to a Hot Cross Buns", "Merrily We Roll Aong", "Good King Wencelas", "Jolly Old St. Nicholas", Jingle Bells" featuring clarinet "Ukrainian bell Carol."

They were AMAZING!

The Christmas programs by the students were a wonderful way to open the Christmas season. If you were not able to attend this year, try to make it next year. It is a wonderful tradition to begin with your family.



January 1st Welcome to 2026!

January 5th Return to School

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CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

CHURCH VOTERS MINUTES – DECEMBER 14, 2025

President Tom Gaide called the meeting to order and Pastor Hauter opened with prayer.

22 members were present. Minutes from the July and October voters' meetings were approved. Kaven Martinez was accepted as a new voting member.

Pastor Hauter – Pastor informed the members that Pastor Nick Shults has accepted a call to St. Louis. His last day at Our Savior's / Bethany is January 4, 2026. He is working on an evangelism program. He shared with us that St Peter's in Monte Vista is currently served by a vicar and will be their pastor when he is ordained.

Lucky Schneberger, Call Committee – Doug Massengill has moved to Colorado Springs. Lucky is the new chairman of the committee. There are seven members on the committee: Kacia Vigil, Matt Lawrenz, Evelyn Daberkow, Dennis Scofield, Jon Bush, Lorna Romero, and Lucky Schneberger. We are asking the District to get the necessary paperwork to continue the search for a pastor. The Call Committee serves under the Board of Elders.

Scott Harberts, Board of Elders – The elders continue to support Pastor and assign readers and elders to serve at each service. They will be meeting on Monday, December 22 to assemble goody bags.

Derion Ibarra, Principal, Board of Education – We have two Christmas programs – one on Monday, Dec. 15, for the ELA through first grade. On Tuesday, Dec. 16, the program is for second through sixth grade. Both programs are at 5:30 p.m. Christmas vacation is from December 19 – January 2.

Derion invited members of the congregation to be more involved with the school, asking them to volunteer, from reading to students to helping with lunch or classroom activities. We now have 71 students.

Janelle Sheppard for JoAnn Jaramillo, Board of Childhood Education – One of the toddlers is moving into the Preschool classroom. All teachers are doing well. They are looking at discounts and focusing on an accurate budget.

Tom Gaide stated the ELA is looking for someone to volunteer one or two times a week to give JoAnn time for her administrative duties.

Board of Trustees – Tom reported that John Aggson worked with Derion Ibarra to repair the heating unit on the roof. John hasn't found an assessor for the facility and has not been able to take photos of the roof. He will be making repairs to the boy's bathroom over Christmas vacation.

We still owe around \$37,000 on the roof. The roofer has been paid from the loan we have with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) so we still need to repay the loan.

Evangelism – A special thank you to Becky Hauter for decorating the fellowship hall. Kris Bruun will continue to chair the St. Fair booth again.

Finance / Budget – The monthly statement of financial position is attached to these minutes. Our net income is -\$44,500. Our next payment from BOCES will come in January which will help balance the books. Tom Gaide suggested that increased giving would be wonderful.

Elections – Individuals will continue to serve in their current positions. The following people were elected to serve:

Kaven Martinez – Facility Manager

Bill Giebel – Board of Trustees

Kris Bruun – Board of Evangelism

Kaven Martinez – chairman of Board of
Evangelism

Old Business – None

New Business – Lucky Schneberger shared with the members obstacles that exist in calling a pastor. The pool of candidates for a pastor is small. Small congregations may need to merge. Direction as we move forward in the call process will come from the District office and our circuit counselor.

Pastor Bob indicated that four services on a weekend -- a Saturday night service at Trinity plus Sunday morning services at Bethany, Our Savior's, and Trinity -- would be a lot for one person. It might be possible to get a vicar to support a pastor.

A vicar is a "pastor in training" and an individual who has completed two years at the seminary, then serves a congregation, finally returning to the seminary before being ordained. Both Ft. Wayne and St. Louis seminaries have small class sizes.

We anticipate holding another voters meeting in late February or early March to call another pastor.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jo Ann Russ
Secretary

PRAYER WARRIORS.....

YOUR PRAYERS ARE STRONG,
POWERFUL, LOVING AND ACCOMPLISH
MUCH (SIGHT UNSEEN)



¹⁶ Be joyful always; ¹⁷ pray continually; ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not put out the Spirit's fire; ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt, ²¹ Test everything. Hold on to the good. ²² Avoid every kind of evil..." 1 Thess. 5:16-22

AND WE CONTINUE TO PURPOSELY PRAY FOR...



Mrs. Debby Daberkow
Mrs. Stacey Freeman
Mrs. Joyce Rael
Mrs. Lynda McGowan
Jacob of Colorado Springs
Dalton Brey, US Military
Mrs. Donna Weisser

- ❖ health concerns
- ❖ God leading us to our new pastor.

Prayers for the school....

❖ Thank you our Great Guardian Lord God for our amazing teachers and pray for their energy, strength, and passion to keep inspiring our students every day.

❖ Prayer for our parents as they guide their families, praying for wisdom in balancing school, home, and faith.

❖ Please pray for God's protection over our students, physically, emotionally, and spiritually and help them grow in faith and knowledge.

❖ Prayers for the church.....

❖ Let us continue to pray for Trinity and her needs, as well as the faithful servants that are giving their time and talents to do the Lord's work.

❖ Please add your request.....

God promises to work out everything for our good. There's always a new way to see God, a new lesson to learn, a new way to prune us to help us grow. God doesn't prevent us from experiencing struggles but He walks with us and helps us grow through them.

You don't have to wait for a new year to have a fresh start. Each day offers that opportunity, step forward to meet the challenge.

"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

THOUGHTFUL THOUGHTS

"The new year is our opportunity to refresh our relationship with the ONE who says, "See, I am making everything new!" (Revelation 21:5a, NIV)

"Joy is the gigantic secret of the Christian."
G.K. Chesterton

"I have held many things in my hands, and have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess."

Martin Luther

"The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time."

Abraham Lincoln

"If you haven't got any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble."

Bob Hope