



TIDINGS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA



JANUARY 2025

INSIDE:

- Trinity Annual Meeting
- Children's Ministry
- Youth Ministry Event
- OWLS Fellowship Event
- Council Meeting Highlights
- Missionary Update

Worship
Sundays 9:00 am
Onsite & Online

STAFF:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Pastor | Jeffrey M. Engholm |
| Children's Ministry | Chelsea Farniok |
| Office Manager | Robyn Behrens |
| Financial Secretary | Gail Cassidy |
| Financial Administrator | Mary Jech |

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

513 Madison St SE | PO Box 1177
 Watertown, MN 55388
 phone: 952-955-1891
 email: trinityoffice@trin.org

www.trin.org

Office Hours: Mon - Fri 9:00 am - Noon



Epiphany and New Beginnings

It's January 2025, the beginning of a new year, which means it's time to celebrate the EPIPHANY of our Lord. The word, Epiphany, means The Light Has Come. On January 6, twelve days after Christmas, we celebrate the arrival of the Wise Men who came to Bethlehem to see the Baby Jesus, the Light of the World. That's what the season of Epiphany is all

about: LIGHT. As the hours of daylight begin to grow during these winter days, the Light of Christ grows in our lives as well.

One of the ways that many people celebrate Epiphany is by the "Chalking of the Doors". This ancient practice dates back hundreds of years, when people would write the date of the upcoming year above their doors with the letters C, M, and B tucked inside. If we were to do it today, it would look like this:

20 * C + M + B + 25

Each letter stands for a Latin word. The "C" stands for Christus, meaning Christ. The "M" stands for Mansionem, meaning House. And the letter "B" stands for Benedicat, meaning blessing. It's a prayer for the coming year: May Christ bless this house.

No one knows what the future holds, but we do know that God holds the future. As we stand at the beginning of 2025, we know that God is doing a new thing in our lives. When you look back at last year, what new thing did God do in your life in 2024? When you look ahead, what new thing do you think God will be doing in your life in the coming year? Even though we can't predict the future, we do know that God will lead us forward, out of fear and into faith, as we follow the Light of the World.

~ God's Peace, Pastor Engholm

What's Happening AT TRINITY LUTHERAN?



Annual Meeting Sunday, January 26, 2025 10:00 am in the Worship Center

Join us to reflect on the blessings of 2024 at Trinity Lutheran Church as well as discussion and approval of the 2025 Spending Plan and election of new leaders onto Trinity's Church Council, Committees and Boards. Your voice and participation are essential as we discern God's path for our congregation, set priorities, and prepare to make an even greater impact in the year ahead.



2025 Spending Plan Review

On **Sunday, January 19**, Trinity Church Council members will present the 2025 Spending Plan following worship at 10:00 am. There will be time for questions and discussion.

MONTHLY EVENTS

@TRINITY

Visit www.trin.org/events for more details on these and all upcoming events at Trinity.

- Thursday, January 2 @ 9 am | Heavenly Housekeepers
- Sunday, January 5 @ 10 am | Birthday Donut Fellowship
- Every Tuesday @ 9 am | Quilting
- Every Wednesday @ 12:30 pm | Prayer Gathering
- Mondays, January 13 & 27 @ 8:30 am | Apostles
- Monday, January 13 @ 2 pm | Priscilla Circle Bible Study
- Thursday, January 16 @ 9:30 am | OWLS

Children's Ministry



Get Connected Through Christ

Our Sunday School curriculum theme this month is "Subscribe Now". If only we could really get to know the people behind our favorite YouTube channels! The ability to "subscribe now" gives people the impression that connection is that easy. But connection takes a bit more effort – it takes following and learning from those we want to know. Kids look for places of belonging, places where forgiveness exists, places where they can experience a genuine connection. The Gospels teach us that places like these exist. In these stories, kids learn that we can know God through Jesus, we can know forgiveness because of Jesus, that Jesus knows us and wants us to follow him. The message of Jesus is powerful and is something we can subscribe to!

Volunteer at Sunday School

We're always in need of volunteers to help with Sunday School, so if you or your High School-aged child is available, please contact Chelsea Farniok at cfarniok@trin.org.

Time to Stock Up on Underwear!

In February, we'll be holding our annual Underwear Drive. We'll collect underwear for the outreach ministry at Central Lutheran Church as they reach out to those in need living in downtown Minneapolis. Thanks for your participation!



Snow Tubing at Elm Creek Winter Recreation Area

Sunday, January 19 | 3:15 - 7:30 pm

Join Trinity youth, families, and friends for a fun Snow Tubing adventure at Elm Creek in Maple Grove, MN! The cost is \$18 per person, which includes bus transportation and two hours of tubing. Arrive at Trinity Lutheran Church by 3:15 pm, and we'll return by 7:30 pm. See more details on the online registration form. Register at www.trin.org under **EVENTS**, and get ready for an awesome winter outing! Registration deadline is January 10.



Thursday, January 16 | 9:30 am

Trinity's OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans) Fellowship Group meets on the third Thursday of the month for a variety of activities and events to relax, socialize and enjoy Christian fellowship with one another. Join us in January for breakfast and conversation at Farmer's Plate Hometown Cafe (117 Lewis Ave S) in downtown Watertown. Hope to see you there!

Looking ahead at Trinity...

During the month of February, we'll be holding our annual Stewardship Campaign, where we will consider how we will continue to participate in God's work among us with our time, talents, and treasures. Watch for more details coming soon.



Saint Lucia

TEA & OPEN HOUSE

Trinity's Saint Lucia event is a traditional Scandinavian celebration of hope and peace for the Christmas season. Each year a member of our congregation is chosen as the Saint Lucia, the honored guest of the event.

2024 SAINT LUCIA

Hannah Rosholt

Hannah grew up attending Trinity Lutheran Church in Watertown with her parents, Dan and Lori Sieling. After graduating from Watertown-Mayer High School, she attended the University of St. Thomas. Following her studies, she served two years in Kazakhstan with the Peace Corps. Upon returning to Minnesota, Hannah taught K-12 music in northern Minnesota for a year. She and her husband, Jake, eventually settled near Watertown, first in Waconia, then in Mayer, where they rejoined Trinity Lutheran Church. They were drawn by the church's welcoming atmosphere and blend of contemporary and traditional services. Their sons, Theo (born 2016) and Milo (born 2019), were both baptized at Trinity.

During the pandemic, Hannah reached out to Pastor Jeff to support young families, which led to her creating online content and coordinating Zoom Sunday School. This evolved into a role as Children's Ministry Coordinator, during which she also directed the Trinity Choir and worked part-time for Minnesota Public Radio. In 2023, she returned to teaching as the music teacher at Watertown-Mayer Elementary School while continuing her involvement at Trinity, directing the Adult Choir and leading children's programs. "Trinity is our home church," she reflects, "a community where our family grows in faith and values."

A special thank you to all of the volunteers and bakers that made our Saint Lucia Tea a success!

Congregational NEWS

MEMORIALS

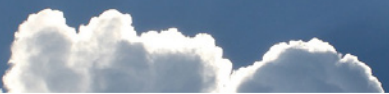
In memory of

Carl Jech

\$25 ~ AV Upgrade

Mary Ann Kamann

\$1,670 ~ Undesignated



Have You Remembered Trinity in Your Will?

Some people are able to continue to give to Trinity in death, as well as in life. Giving through your will helps to continue the 165-year tradition of ministry and mission at Trinity, continuing the legacy of your witness. With the advice of your attorney or tax adviser, the following language may be added to your will, trust, or codicil: **"I bequeath X% of my estate to Trinity Lutheran Church, 513 Madison Street SE, Watertown, MN 55388."** Thank you for considering a lasting gift to Trinity Lutheran Church!



2025 offering envelopes are available in the narthex at church.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

December 17, 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT

Operating Fund summary November 2024

Beginning balance 11/1/2024:

-\$ 32,996.40

Operating Fund income: \$ 30,716.97

Operating Fund exps: \$ 33,845.88

Net balance (November): -\$ 3,128.91

Operating Fund balance as of

11/30/2024: -\$ 36,125.31

2024 operating fund EXPENSES exceeded INCOME by \$35,613.39.

Building Fund expenses:

Internal loan payment: \$ 5,000.00

Mortgage loan balance: \$ 15,000.00

Cash Summary:

Bremer: \$46,340.96

(includes \$1,639.32 for Nov. federal withholding)

Citizen's Building Fund: \$76,159.86

M/S/C Nancy Stello / Corky Ibeling / carried

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Jeff expressed gratitude to everyone who is learning to use the new A/V equipment and helping with the livestream work. He also reviewed the many holiday events going on at Trinity in December, in addition to new members joining, and Trinity participating in the community Thanksgiving service. Looking ahead to 2025, Pastor Jeff highlighted the year kicking off with the Financial Forum and Annual Meeting on Sundays, January 19th and 26th, respectively. In February, the annual Stewardship campaign and the annual Underwear Drive are both planned.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Reviewed the 2025 Spending Plan**
Church Council discussion and motion carried to approve the 2025 spending plan, including \$6,000 adjustment from first draft for year-end property insurance increase.

M/S/C Corky Ibeling / Diane Holmes / carried

- **Appointment of Audit Committee Member:** Nick Neaton and Pastor will follow-up with potential candidate.

- **River City Theater Company:** The use of Trinity facility was reviewed by Council. Favorable feedback was shared about both the production and the facility use, as well as appreciation for involvement and attendance by many community members.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Membership Roster:** Council reviewed the membership statistics summarized by Robyn Behrens. Discussed demographic diversity of the active congregation, challenges of measuring the online participation, and also reviewed the Roster Maintenance Process.

Motion made for approval to remove names from the Membership Roster, (list provided to the Church Council by office administration) due to inactivity in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and its bylaws.

M/S/C Nancy Pickering / Nancy Stello / carried

- **Volunteer appreciation:** Discussed Church Council hosting a volunteer appreciation event with cake after church on February 16. Pastor to acknowledge the individuals and volunteer groups in church. This will allow the Council to say thank you to the volunteers and highlight volunteer opportunities.

MISSIONARY UPDATE

Rev. Andrew & Meredith Ronnevik Serving in Papua New Guinea



Dear Family and Friends,

Christmas greetings to you all! We hope the joy of Christ's coming brings you peace and strength this season. And God's blessings to you as we soon begin a new year.

These past few months have been full. I wrapped up another term at Martin Luther Seminary, teaching classes on Christian denominations and contemporary theology, with students exploring faith in the PNG context. December brought a vibrant graduation celebration, including unique gifts from students—like a live pig and handmade treasures. We also traveled by sea to the birthplace of the Lutheran Church in PNG, visiting historic mission sites and enjoying the community's hospitality. Our first Christmas in PNG was special, though we missed family. We sang carols in Tok Pisin and English and celebrated with festive food, including gifts from graduating students.

Recently, we moved to our permanent home on campus, surrounded by fruit trees and a garden. Hans turned three in November, Bea finished preschool, and both are excited for the new school year starting soon. Looking ahead, we'll spend two weeks in Australia for a much-needed holiday. Meredith will also begin part-time teaching at the seminary in 2025.

Please keep us in prayer for health, patience in parenting, and for the seminary graduates serving across PNG. We're deeply thankful for your support and God's blessings as we continue this journey.

In Christ,
Andrew, Meredith, Bea, and Hans

Follow Our ELCA Missionaries

If you would like to be added to the list to receive quarterly email updates from Andrew and Meredith Ronnevik, email your request to Meredith at meredith.ronnevik@elca.org.



Trinity supports missionaries Rev. Andrew & Meredith Ronnevik, serving in Papua New Guinea, with prayer and financial support. You can sign up to support the Ronneviks by adding your name on the calendar in the back of the sanctuary and placing cash or a check in the offering plate on Sundays or give directly to the church office. You can also give on Trinity's Online Giving page under 'Special Gifts'. A \$25 donation supporting our ELCA missionaries is a meaningful way to remember or honor a loved one.



Have You Noticed the Colors in Church?

Have you ever noticed that the banners and paraments—the fabric decorations on the altar, pulpit, and lectern—change color throughout the year? These shifts aren't just decorative; they hold deep meaning tied to the church's liturgical calendar, guiding us through the seasons of faith and worship. Each liturgical season has its own color, symbolizing the focus of that time.

The season of Epiphany follows Christmas and marks the visit of the magi to Jesus and Jesus' baptism. The liturgical color WHITE is used during Epiphany to symbolize the purity, joy, and divine revelation of Christ to the world, emphasizing the light of Christ shining in the darkness.

The liturgical color changes to GREEN after Epiphany to represent growth, life, and the ongoing mission of the church. Green signifies our maturing faith as we reflect on Christ's teachings in our daily life.

➤➤➤ Last Month in Pictures

As we awaited the celebration of Christ's birth last month, we hosted a joyful Saint Lucia Tea, had fun at a lively Christmas Extravaganza family event, and came together for midweek Advent worship and meals served by our Confirmation students.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY <i>Church Office Closed</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Morgan Matson Joyce Nelson	2 Housekeepers 9 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> McKenna Quinlan Rosie Schroers	3 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jim Hunkins Diane Johnson	4 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Riley Delaney James Forcier Carrie Herman Albin Neaton
5 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Evelyn Becker Tami Kuntz Bill Singsank	6 AA Meeting 8 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Theodore Lohmann	7 Quilters 9 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> John McCain Elvina Nelson	8 Prayer 12:30 pm 6-8 Confirm. 6:30 pm Worship Choir 6:30 pm Worship Band 7:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Emmett Behrens	9	10	11 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Beth Gilles Gerald Gruette Lisa Haarala Emma Matter
12 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Ryan Otto	13 Apostles 8:30 am Priscilla Circle 2 pm AA Meeting 8 pm	14 Quilters 9 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jake Salzsiedler	15 FCA Breakfast 7 am Prayer 12:30 pm 6-8 Confirm. 6:30 pm Worship Choir 6:30 pm Worship Band 7:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kaitlyn Hecksel Doug Hendricks Nina Kirkman Randy Ragner	16 OWLS 9:30 am Finance Committee 6:30 pm	17 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Ella Hunkins Jordyn Salzsiedler Kennedy Tufte	18
19 Worship 9 am Finance Review 10 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am Snow Tubing 3:15 pm	20 AA Meeting 8 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Joshua Stenson	21 Quilters 9 am Council Mtg. 6:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Dori Akins	22 Prayer 12:30 pm 6-8 Confirm. 6:30 pm Worship Choir 6:30 pm Worship Band 7:30 pm	23 Tidings 9:30 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Trisha Arndt Gail Cassidy Jody Zellmann	24 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Emma Hunkins Roxanne Lunderby	25
26 ANNUAL MEETING Worship 9 am Annual Mtg. 10 am Sunday School 10 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Frank Fritzsche Kristina Skahaug Emma Thonn	27 Apostles 8:30 am AA Meeting 8 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jane Morrow Nora Delaney Amber Hausladen Jamie Isakson Natalie Johnson Hattie Neaton	28 Quilters 9 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Matt Gohman Travis Markgraf	29 Prayer 12:30 pm 6-8 Confirm. 6:30 pm Worship Choir 6:30 pm Worship Band 7:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Autumn Guetzkow Alaina Thonn	30 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jayce Blacketter Karla Brabec Ben Firth Jason Koets Michelle Sandquist Ken Tufte	31	

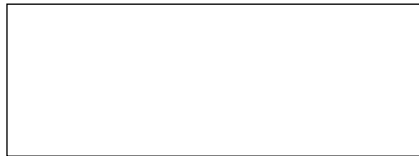


513 MADISON ST SE | PO BOX 1177
WATERTOWN MN 55388
www.trin.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WATERTOWN MN 55388
PERMIT NO. 22

If you have a new address or if you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact the church office at 952-955-1891 or trinityoffice@trin.org.



Trinity Lutheran Church Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 26, 2025
10:00 am in the Worship Center

CONNECT WITH US



Facebook/Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) Watertown MN



All About Attitude

“The way you say ‘representative’ to an automated system reflects the real you,” a friend told me. After we laughed at that truth, I realized everything I say matters. Someone is always listening, whether the words and tone are positive or negative.

Ephesians 4:29 (NLT) says our language shouldn’t be “foul or abusive” but good, helpful and encouraging. Whether I’m peaceful, hurried, joyful, empathetic, frustrated, celebrating or hurting, I can carefully choose my words (and the attitude behind them). When I’m not ready to speak wholesomely, may God shut my mouth. When a friend needs encouragement, may I listen to God’s prompting. When I need to confront, may I do so lovingly.

Changing how we think — that is, how we speak to ourselves — can be tough, too. But God wants to transform our reactions and motives, dispelling pride, a lack of confidence and anxiety. Consider the concerns in your heart and let God give you new words and attitudes in this new year.