

TRINITY TIDINGS

Trinity Lutheran Church ~ Spencer, Iowa



January, 2026

To Know, Love and Share Christ

A photograph of a hand reaching out to help a runner on a track. The hand is in the foreground, wearing a watch, and is grasping the hand of a runner who is in motion. The background shows other runners on a track, blurred to indicate speed. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows.

Let's see how inventive we
can be in encouraging love
and helping out, not avoiding
worshiping together as some
do but spurring each other
on, especially as we see the
big Day approaching.

Hebrew 10:23-25

Pastor Renae's January Message

Happy New Year!

Did you stay up and watch the ball drop? If I recall correctly, there is always a countdown that happens seconds before midnight. We count down with excited anticipation.

5,4,3,2,1 Happy New Year!!

The countdown to Christ returning has begun. We know **He is coming**, and that **He is coming quickly**, because scripture tells us.

1 Thessalonian 4:16-17

“For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. “

Matthew 24:30

“Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”

Revelation 1:7

“Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even So. Amen.”

John 14:3

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. “

Revelation 22:12

“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.”

We wait with joyful anticipation for the day we get to meet our Lord. We wait in joyful anticipation for the day when our faith becomes sight. The day we get to see our precious Lord and Savior.

Thank you, Lord, for each day you have given us to cling to you, to know you better, and to make your name known.

In Christ we cling,
Pastor Renae Behrends

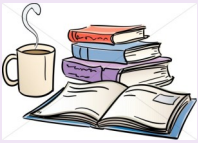
2025 REPORTS NEEDED!

All officers and chairpersons are requested to submit their 2025 reports for the annual meeting as soon as possible. Your attention to this matter will be a great help in the preparation of the Bulletin of Reports for our 2026 Annual Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING

The 76th Annual Meeting of our parish will take place on Sunday, January 25, immediately following the conclusion of Sunday Worship. All confirmed members are called to be present in order to review our work for the mission and ministry of Christ for the past year, to elect new members to our parish council and to adopt a budget for 2026.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY



This winter Pastor Renae is leading a study on the Books of the Bible. Each week we watch a short video, followed by discussion. Please join us for this informative study.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING & POTLUCK

On Sunday, December 7, members of Trinity helped decorate the church and narthex for Christmas. Afterwards a potluck lunch was enjoyed. We thank all those who helped get our church ready for this Holy season!



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Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

God of light we come to you searching for peace, longing for hope, with joy in our hearts
we find a child born in love into this world.



“Do not be afraid.
I bring you good news of
great joy that will be for all
the people.”

“I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes
in me may not remain in darkness.” John 12:46

Special Christmas Music




January Calendar of Events

EPIPHANY

1 Thurs		<i>Happy New Year!</i>
4 Sun	8:15 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 10:45 am	Senior Choir Rehearsal Sunday Worship Sunday School Bible Study
7 Wed	6:00 pm	Confirmation / Meal at Faith Lutheran Church
11 Sun	9:30 am 10:00 am 10:45 am	Sunday Worship Sunday School Bible Study
14 Wed	6:00 pm	Confirmation / Meal at Faith Lutheran Church
15 Thurs	9:30 am	Ruth Circle
18 Sun	9:30 am 10:00 am 10:45 am 10:45 am	Sunday Worship Sunday School Bible Study Parish Council Meeting
21 Wed	6:00 pm	Confirmation / Meal at Faith Lutheran Church
25 Sun	9:30 am 10:00 am 10:45 am	Sun. Worship / Praise Team Sunday School 76th Annual Meeting
28 Wed	6:00 pm	Confirmation / Meal at Faith Lutheran Church

January Birthdays



2 - Lori Christensen

3 - Marie Kelley

12 - Harper Nolte

17 - Randy Leonard

25 - Bob Bendlin

31 - Jasmin Beal



January Parish Worship Ministries

With Bible readings to prepare for worship

ALTAR GUILD: Sonna Winther

January 4, 2026

Second Sunday after CHRISTMAS

To prepare for worship, please read:

1 Kings 3:4-15 Psalm 119:97-104
Ephesians 1:3-14 Luke 2:40-52

SERVERS: Sophia Porath

LECTOR: Bonnie Anderson

C. ASSISTANT: Grant Leu

GREETERS: Randy & Lisa Leonard

USHERS: Bob Bendlin, Dean Gronemeyer

O. COUNTERS: Kay Lamport, De Linda Leu

January 18, 2026

Second Sunday after EIPHANY

To prepare for worship, please read:

Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42a

SERVERS: Sophia Porath

LECTOR: Natalie Kroll

C. ASSISTANTS: Lisa Leonard

GREETERS: Grant & De Linda Leu

USHERS: Dale Kroll, Guy Schurz

O. COUNTERS: Walter Mantler, Guy Schurz

January 11, 2026

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

To prepare for worship, please read:

Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29
Romans 6:1-11 Matthew 3:13-17

SERVERS: Harper Nolte

LECTOR: Scott Nolte

C. ASSISTANT: Jane Long

GREETERS: Lynn & Nancy Heideman

USHERS: Grant Leu, Scott Nolte

O. COUNTERS: Lynn & Nancy Heideman

January 25, 2026

Third Sunday after EIPHANY

To prepare for worship, please read:

Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1-9 (10-14)
1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-25

SERVERS: Nolan Kelley

LECTOR: Paul Caswell

C. ASSISTANTS: Dale Kroll

GREETERS: Paul & Becky Caswell

USHERS: Randy & Lisa Leonard

O. COUNTERS: Randy & Lisa Leonard

**SUNDAY
WORSHIP
9:30 a.m.**

O Give Thanks to the LORD

1 Chron 16:34

Stewardship Report - November, 2025

Income to date:	\$ 221,793
Expenses to date:	\$ (223,568)
Difference:	(\$ 1,775)

GIVING STATEMENTS

The end of December marked the end of the fourth quarter of 2025. Quarterly giving statements are being prepared and will be emailed to you. Please make sure we have your current email address. Those who do not use email will receive their statement in the mail.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES



2026 offering envelopes have now been distributed. We are asking all members to dispose of old envelopes and use only their new 2026 offering envelopes when giving an offering this year.

2026 STEWARDSHIP MATERIALS

We are still collecting 2026 Faith Promises and Time & Talent commitments. If you have not returned your stewardship materials, please do so as soon as possible so we can continue to plan for the ministry of Jesus Christ in 2026!



ST. LUKE LUTHERAN HOME BINGO



The Ruth Circle is scheduled to help with bingo at St. Luke Lutheran Home on Friday, February 6. Trinity is responsible for furnishing approximately 200 prizes. Here is a list of suggested items: snack size candy bars, caramel corn, potato chips, fruit, granola bars, cereal bars, cookies, cheese & crackers, diabetic candy, peanuts, bath powder, toothpaste, lotion, body wash, stuffed animals, knickknacks, perfume/cologne, jewelry, gum. If you would like to donate any of these items, please bring them to church by February 2.



PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS

“Let Us Pray for One Another”

In our prayers during January let us remember the following persons and causes in our intercessions:



- + **Kroll & McLaughlin** families, as they mourn the death of Tami’s uncle, **Tom McLaughlin**;
- + **Brian Behrends**, as he recovers from surgery;
- + **Sue Bendlin**, as she deals with health issues;
- + **Ashley Ballou Bonnema**, cousin of Molly Vander Linden, as she lives with cancer;
- + **Leo Brownfield**, as he deals with health issues;
- + **Carmen & Jim Howard**, sister of De Linda Leu, for health and healing as they deal with grief;
- + **Lisa Leonard**, as she deals with some health issues;
- + **Jeff Long**, as he deals with health issues;
- + **Clem McLaughlin**, father of Tami Kroll, as he deals with health challenges;
- + **Jim Smith**, as he undergoes medical testing;
- + **Stacie Smith**, friend of Pastor Renae, as she lives with terminal cancer;
- + The families of our parish: **Lampport, Leonard and Leu**;
- + Staff and students of Trinity Preschool & Daycare;
- + Directors and staff of Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps;
- + Residents of our community’s long term care facilities for health and peace;
- + Caregivers and workers who go above and beyond for our aged and infirm;
- + Fertility of the earth, favorable weather and for all those who labor in the fields;
- + All members of our parish, that as we continue to rejoice in the mystery of the Resurrection, we may be empowered to live the new life given in Christ in our daily lives.

“ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ...” (1 Timothy 2:1)

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all those who provided cookies, bars and hot chocolate for our Christmas Program on December 14!

A big thank you to **Annette Ebeling** and **Ardith Rustad** for sewing costumes for our Christmas Program.

We thank the **Long & Vaudt Families** for lighting the Advent Wreath on the Sundays of Advent!

2026 Parish Worship Ministries – January to March

Date	Altar Guild	Lector	Greeters	Ushers	Offering Counters
January 4	Sonna Winther	Bonnie Anderson	Randy & Lisa Leonard	Bob Bendlin Dean Gronemeyer	Kay Lamport De Linda Leu
January 11	Sonna Winther	Scott Nolte	Lynn & Nancy Heideman	Grant Leu Scott Nolte	Lynn & Nancy Heideman
January 18	Sonna Winther	Natalie Kroll	Grant & De Linda Leu	Dale Kroll Guy Schurz	Walter Mantler Guy Schurz
January 25	Sonna Winther	Paul Caswell	Paul & Becky Caswell	Randy & Lisa Leonard	Randy & Lisa Leonard
February 1	Bonnie Anderson	Andy Anderson	Andy & Bonnie Anderson	Leo Brownfield Cu Van Cao	De Linda Leu Kay Lamport
February 8	Bonnie Anderson	De Linda Leu	Ron & Shelly McGuire	Paul & Becky Caswell	Paul & Becky Caswell
February 15	Bonnie Anderson	Ardith Rustad	Scott & Tina Nolte	Bob Bendlin Dean Gronemeyer	Dean Gronemeyer Walter Mantler
February 22	Bonnie Anderson	Tami Kroll	Dale & Tami Kroll	Brian Behrends Grant Leu	Steve & Tracy Licht
March 1	TBA	Scott Nolte	Deb Garnatz Kay Lamport	Scott Nolte Cu Van Cao	Paul & Becky Caswell
March 8	TBA	Annette Ebeling	Dean & Amy Gronemeyer	Randy & Lisa Leonard	Dean Gronemeyer De Linda Leu
March 15	TBA	Michael Kroll	Andy & Bonnie Anderson	Dale Kroll Michael Kroll	Randy & Lisa Leonard
March 22	TBA	Grant Leu	Paul & Becky Caswell	Lynn & Nancy Heideman	Lynn & Nancy Heideman
March 29	TBA	Brian Behrends	John & Marie Kelley	Brian Behrends Grant Leu	Randy & Lisa Leonard

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

1. Remember, you will not be called to be reminded about your assigned dates.
2. Mark your assigned dates and/or your youth's assigned dates on your calendar.
3. If a conflict arises, switch dates with another or find a substitute. Inform the church office before Wednesday so the bulletin is correct. If you have any questions, please call the appropriate chairperson or the parish office.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!!!

Parish Council Meeting—November 16, 2025

"To Know, Love and Share Christ"

November Parish Council Meeting called to order by President Dale Kroll at 10:45 am.

Present: President Dale Kroll, VP Grant Leu, Secretary Lisa Leonard, Steve Grell, Jane Long, Molly Vander Linden.

Minutes of the October meeting were reviewed. Motion by Steve G. to accept the October Minutes. Second by Grant L. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Report: Dale K. gave a briefing on the report. Was reviewed and discussed. Motion by Lisa L. to accept the Treasurer's Report. Second by Steve G. Motion carried unanimously.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Renae gave a briefing on her duties, activities and volunteering for the past month. Motion by Grant L. to accept Pastor's Report. Second by Molly V. Motion carried unanimously.

Parish Committees were reviewed and discussed.

Property - Grant L. gave update. Discussed possible concerns.

Preschool - Board Reports - Pastor Renae and Dale K. gave briefing. Reviewed and discussed. Motion by Jane L. to accept the Parish Committee Reports. Second by Lisa L. Motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

Communion Assistant Schedule was reviewed, changes made and accepted.

New Treasurer (Andy Anderson is retiring in 2026) Pastor Renae gave update. Discussed.

Preschool Infant Room: Discussed.

Release Time Program: Discussed.

Roof Leakage in Sanctuary: Waiting for Harvey Five Star to come and check roof and flashing. (Grant, Dean, Leo and Mike replaced caulk around windows above the altar and filled roof divots and holes on November 11, 2025)

Parish Council Nominees: Terms ending are Lisa L. (will commit to an additional term) Jane L. and Molly V. have found replacements. Becky Caswell and Dean Gronemeyer will be placed on January 2026 nominating ballot.

New Business:

2026 Budget: Steve G. gave briefing. Reviewed and discussed. Motion to approve and accept the 2026 Budget by Grant L. Second by Jane L. Motion carried unanimously.

Drain in One Year Old Classroom: Suters gave recommendation on repairing. Discussed and possibly install check valve and pipe cup link.

LCMC Year-end Appeal: Reviewed and discussed. Motion by Grant L. to give \$2000.00 benevolence to LCMC. Second by Jane L. Motion carried unanimously.

Christmas Program and Brunch: Will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 10:00 am.

Motion to adjourn by Grant L. Second by Lisa L. Motion carried unanimously.

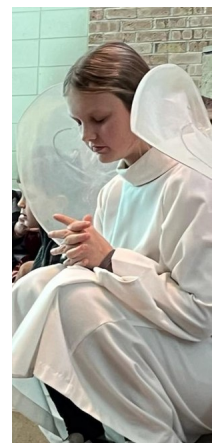
Adjourned with prayer at 12:00 pm.

Minutes by Secretary,
Lisa Leonard

Trinity Church, Preschool & Daycare Program: “What God Wants for Christmas”

On December 14 Trinity church members, Preschool/Daycare students, parents and grandparents gathered as the students brought to life the Christmas Story during worship.

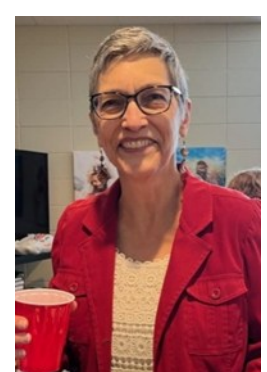
The story, told through the eyes of the angel Gabriel, explained what God wants for Christmas for each one of us.



“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is His name.” **Luke 1:46-49**

Angel Gabriel was appointed by God to give Mary and Joseph the news-- Mary was God’s chosen one to give birth to God’s only Son.

**What does God want for Christmas? Now here’s the surprise:
What God wants is you—the one He created! God wants you to
know Him and love Him within.**



A special thank you to church members for providing cookies and bars following the program, and to Molly Vander Linden for running a special cocoa bar for the youngsters.

Also, thank you to Annette Ebeling and Ardith Rustad for their costume work!

TRINITY TIDINGS is published monthly by Trinity Lutheran Church
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DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY "TIDINGS" - JANUARY 20



Dear Lord, Guide Us in This New Year!

