



Trinity Lutheran Church
Wee Disciples Preschool & Daycare
1226 First Avenue North
Great Falls, MT 59401-3201
(406) 452-2121



Respect the
Deadline!



JANUARY LAMPLIGHTER DEADLINE

Please have your newsletter items into the church office by:

Monday, December 23rd!!

The Season of Advent

As far as the world is concerned, the Christmas Season is in full swing. Stores started putting up their Christmas displays in September, with a short reprieve in October for Halloween decorations and candy. Christmas sales began in earnest on Black Friday, and people seem to be in a hurry to get to Christmas (at least the presents).

In the Church, however, the Christmas Season doesn't begin until December 24th with our celebrations of Christmas Eve. For us, the four Sundays prior to Christmas comprise the Season of Advent.

The word "Advent" means coming. During the four weeks before Christmas, we wait for the coming of our Savior. We wait for His coming as a baby in Bethlehem, and for the day when He will come again to judge the living and the dead, as we confess in the Creeds. This time of waiting gives us pause to reflect on the great love that the Father has shown to us by sending His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior.

If you have children or grandchildren, talk to them about the symbols that we see during Advent and Christmas.

- The color blue is a symbol of hope. As Christ ascended into the blue sky, so will He return from the sky to grant us eternal life.
- The Advent Wreath has four candles - one for each Sunday of the Season. Three of the candles are blue, and one is rose (not pink).
- The Christmas Tree will be adorned with ornaments called chrismons. Each ornament is a Christian symbol. Take a look at them (but don't touch!) and see if you can figure out what they represent.

Take time out of your busy schedule to do devotions, either by yourself, or with your family. We will have Advent Devotions available that reflect the theme of our Advent Midweek Services. If you have an Advent wreath at home, use it each day.

Come to our Advent Midweek Services on Wednesday evenings in December. We will have supper at 6:00pm, followed by Evening Prayer at 7:00pm. Our theme this year is "*His Name Shall Be Called.*"

Our Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 15th at 10:00am during the Divine Service. Come hear the children of our congregation tell the story of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Child who came to save us.



And most of all, remember what the Seasons of Advent and Christmas are really all about. It's not about parties and presents. It's about the greatest gift the world has ever known. Christmas is about the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Advent Midweek Service Theme: *His Name Shall Be Called.*

During the season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of God's Son, who was given the name Jesus—a Hebrew name that means "God saves." In addition to His earthly name, Holy Scripture calls Jesus by various titles which describe something about His person or work. In this year's Advent series, we are going to examine four titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6. Those titles are "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," "Everlasting Father," and "Prince of Peace." We will learn how each of these titles describes something about who Jesus is and what He did for our salvation.

Pastor Jonathan Schultz

WEE DISCIPLES



"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'" Luke 2:10-12



*"Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head."*

December brings the start of the Advent season and the lighting of a new candle on the advent wreath each Sunday. Advent leads us into the time to celebrate Jesus' birth. The children at Wee Disciples will be busy this coming month celebrating Advent and learning songs and Bible verses to share with their families. Please join us on **Thursday, December 19th, at 6:30pm** for our **Christmas Family Chapel Service** when the children will share the Christmas story through songs and Bible passages. Following the service, refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall.

Wee Disciples will be closed for the Christmas holiday on **December 24th, 25th, and 26th** and will also be closed on **New Year's Day, January 1, 2025.**

The Board of Early Childhood Education meets on **Thursday, December 5th, at 6:30pm** in the Stahlecker Room.

Our fundraising efforts continue with the Smith's Rewards Program and with the *Fuddrucker's Burgers for Benefits Night, December 17th* is our next assigned evening. You can eat in or take out. Thanks to everyone who has been supporting these fundraising activities!

Have a very Blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year!



Did you know that Trinity has scholarships available for families of Trinity who have, or would like to have, their children attending Wee Disciples Preschool and Day Care? The application is available on our website (www.trinity-mt.org) or in the church office. **NOTE ~ The congregation is encouraged to contribute to the scholarship fund just as we do the roof repair or any other special fund.**

LWML News

All ladies of the congregation, including our new members and confirmed young women, are invited and encouraged to attend all LWML happenings here at Trinity.

Please contact Sylvia Adams or Amy Schultz for more information.

Saturday, Dec 7th	10:00 am	Advent Brunch @ Trinity
Sunday, Dec 15th	after church	Cookie Walk
June 26-29, 2025	Omaha, NE	National LWML Convention
April 24-26, 2026	Lewistown, MT	District LWML Convention



You are invited to our Advent Brunch on **Saturday, December 7th at 10:00 am**. *This would be a wonderful event to bring your daughters to!* We will have a short devotional program and lots of fellowship with our Sisters in Christ. Everyone is welcome to bring a breakfast brunch item to share. The theme will be “*Seasons of Life – Advent by Candlelight.*”

We will have an ingathering at the Advent Brunch for *Toby's House Crisis Nursery*, which is committed to the prevention of child abuse and neglect by providing crisis, respite, and transitional care for children ages 0-6 here in Great Falls. For more information about what services they provide, please visit <https://tobyshousemt.org/>
Needed donation items include:

- Diapers (any size, brand)
- Diaper rash creams
- Wipes
- Formula (any type or specialty type, for example Nutramigen, Alimentum or Enfamil AR or any brand, unopened)
- Kleenex
- Monetary donations

We will again host a Cookie Walk after church on **Sunday, December 15th**. Donated goodies (from anyone in the congregation) will be available to pick-and-choose from. Trays will then be wrapped for your convenience. Grab a tray to fill and take to an office party; Take cookies to a family event! All of the variety you want with much less of the baking involved. A suggested donation per dozen will be collected. All proceeds from the Cookie Walk will go toward Echoz Pregnancy Care Center Renovation Fund, as they are doing some remodeling and expansion.

The National LWML Convention will be next June in Omaha, NE, and our District LWML Convention will be in April of 2026. *What a fun time to gather with your fellow Lutheran Ladies to hear how our Mites are used, reports from missionaries in the Harvest Field, worship together, and have great times of fellowship, Bible Study and more!* Please ask Sylvia or Amy for more information. We would love to have several people from Trinity attend these wonderful events!

Our next Group Gathering will be the Advent Brunch on **Saturday, December 7th at 10:00 am**. The board will meet on Wednesday, December 18th at 11:30 am.

Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible study ~ The Wednesday Morning Ladies' Bible Study group meets every **Wednesday morning at 9:30am in the Stahlecker Room**. There is plenty of room for new people, so please join us for a morning of fellowship time as we study God's Word together. On December 4th the group will be finishing up the final lesson in the study *Overflowing Abundance*. On December 11th the group will be doing a Bible study from the Fall Quarterly and then we will be starting a new Bible study which has yet to be determined.

Men's Bible Study meets on **Thursday mornings at 8:30 am** for an hour of fellowship and study of God's Word. All the men of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend.

Advent! A favorite time of the year to witness the true meaning of Christmas. Sending Christmas cards with Christian artwork and wording. Responding to people's holiday greetings with, "Have a blessed Christmas!" Decorating with a nativity scene.

The Friday Ladies Bible study ~ Discussing how to witness and share the love of Jesus more easily is blended in with the study of Philippians by the Friday Ladies Bible study. Join them and share some of your ideas on **December 6th and 13th from 1:00-3:00pm** at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave. S.

Assisted Living Ministry ~ Assisted Living Ministry brings Christmas carols and a devotion to those who often cannot get out to a church for Advent and Christmas services. The group will gather on **Friday, December 20th at 1:30pm** at *Highgate Senior Living*, 3000 11th Ave. S. Prior to the Highgate event there will be a **no-host lunch at 11:45am** at *Jaker's*, 1500 11th Ave. S.

Pastor Reinke will bring the Advent message with worship services at the following locations. On **Wednesday, December 11th at 1:30pm** he will be at *The Lodge*, 1801 9th St. S. He will be at *Highgate* on **Monday, December 16th at 1:30pm**. Your presence at any of these activities is a witness to others!



Our video ministry goes out each week on our Facebook page and reaches countless people. The audio/video crew is looking for a few good people. No experience is needed, we will teach you what you will need to know. If you would be interested in helping with this very important ministry, contact Pastor Schultz or Cheryl Bauer (406-590-6460) for more information.

They're Back!!

Cards (both Christmas and all occasion)
and **calendars!**

Price:	All Occasion Cards	\$8.00
	Christmas Card	\$9.00
	Calendars	\$9.00



Check with the church office or the Youth Group to get yours today!



COMPARISON OF GIVING REPORT ~ 2024

For the period October 27th through November 17th

October 27 th	\$3,667
November 3 rd	\$5,588
November 10 th	\$2,799
November 17 th	\$3,738
Vanco	\$1,300

Actual giving for report period: \$17,092

Roof Repair Fund –through 10/20/2024 \$49,149

If you have any questions, please call me at (406) 868-2260 ~ *James Lautenschlager, Assistant Treasurer*

Vanco's Give+ Online

Vanco's Give+ Mobile

The next generation of giving

Please visit our website www.trinity-mt.org, go to the "Fellowship" tab and sign up for online giving. You can also download the Vanco mobile app to your smart phone for even more convenience.



Offering Counters are needed to assist the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer count and record the offerings following each Sunday service. No experience is needed. Please call Cheryl in the church office (452-2121) or sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office if you are willing to assist.

Offering Envelopes ~ A Reminder to Use Your New Offering Envelopes ~ New boxes of offering envelopes for **2025 (GREEN in color)** will be issued Wednesday, December 18, 2024.

The last time to use the 2024 blue envelopes is December 31, 2024! **Please destroy any remaining 2024 blue offering envelopes after December 31, 2024. Begin using the GREEN offering envelopes SUNDAY, January 5, 2025.**

End-of-Year Contributions will need to be in **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31, 2024**, in order to be counted toward your pledge for 2024. Please be sure to bring those contributions to the church office as soon as possible, either by mail or drop-off at the church Monday through Friday (you may use the locked mailbox outside the office). **The counters will make one final deposit for 2023 at the close of business (3:00pm) on December 31, 2024.**

Our shut-ins

Millie Birkholz (The Lodge), **Ellen Carpenter** (Eagle's Manor), **Anita Erickson** (at home), **Ed Hickel** (at home), **Arleen Nelson** (Bee Hive Homes-Pine Tree), **George Pence** (The Rainbow), **Myrtle Pence** (Benefis Extended Care), **Lauretta Stanfield** (at home); **Juanita Winter** (Bee Hive Homes-Clover)



Bob Blomstrom (Helena), **Darlene Murray** (at son's home in Kansas), **Vi-Nell** (at son's home in Spokane, WA)

Our members who continue to battle health issues and their caregivers

Chuck & Judy Lively, Chuck & Elsie Lorenz

Jerry & Colleen Mans, Henry & Alice Schuman

We pray for those serving in law enforcement and the military

Sam Birkett, Cascade County Sheriff's Deputy; **Joshua Graham**, (Blomstrom's grandson-in-law) Helena Police Department

Nathan Brenner, USAF; **Scott Broberg**, USAF; **Daniel Crème**, USAF; **Ricardo Dominguez**, USAF; **Matthew Erickson**, USAF (Anita Erickson's grandson); **Howard Filbert**, USAF; **Landon Grosenick**, MANG (Pam Grosenick's grandson); **Kale Martin**, USAF; **Isaac Monroe**, USAF; **Martin Shabaan**, USAF; **Chaplain Jonathan Schultz**, USAF Reserves; **Kalainee Teaney**, USAF; **Julie Timms** (Waetzig's granddaughter)

Rev. Dr. David & Jennifer Preus ~ Eurasia (Romania)

Rev. Dr. Gerald & Heidi Paul ~ Cayman Islands

Rev. Eric & Johanna Stinnett ~ Ethiopia

John & Jenn Wolf ~ Kenya



Giving Online: You can partner with the LCMS by making an online gift restricted in use to the support of these missionaries at lcms.org

Giving by Check: You can also make a donation to their ministries by check. *Mail your check, made payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and designated in the memo line with the missionaries last name,* to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861, **QUESTIONS?** Call 888-930-4438 or send an email to mission.giving@lcms.org.



First Sunday in Advent ~ December 1, 2024

Sunday school & Bible study ~ 8:30 am

Divine Service ~ 10:00 am

First Advent Mid-week ~ December 4, 2024

Soup Supper ~ 6:00 pm

Worship 7:00 pm

Second Sunday in Advent ~ December 8, 2024

Sunday school & Bible study ~ 8:30 am

Divine Service ~ 10:00 am

Second Advent Mid-week ~ December 11, 2024

Soup Supper ~ 6:00pm

Worship 7:00 pm

Third Sunday in Advent ~ December 15, 2024

Sunday school & Bible study ~ 8:30 am

Divine Service w/children's message ~ 10:00 am

Third Advent Mid-week ~ December 18, 2024

Soup Supper ~ 6:00 pm

Worship 7:00 pm

Fourth Sunday in Advent ~ December 22, 2024

Sunday school & Bible study ~ 8:30 am

Divine Service ~ 10:00 am

Christmas Eve Family Worship ~ Tuesday, December 24, 2024 ~ 7:00 pm

Christmas Day ~ Wednesday, December 25, 2024

Divine Service ~ 10:00 am

First Sunday after Christmas ~ December 29, 2024

Reading Service ~ 10:00 am



The Altar Committee will once again be placing an order for poinsettias to grace our altar for Christmas. If you would like to donate toward the purchase of these poinsettias, please make your check payable to *Trinity Lutheran Church*, designate on the check “**For Poinsettias**” and drop it into the offering. If you would like your donation in memory or honor of a loved one, please attach a note with the details to your check or contact the church office at 452-2121 with that information.

Advent Soup Suppers ~ We will be having Advent soup suppers on **December 4th, 11th, and 18th**. As always there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office. Please sign-up for items to bring each week. Soup suppers will be at 6:00pm followed by Advent Mid-Week Service at 7:00pm.



Snow Removal Sign-up ~ Help is needed for the winter to remove snow from the sidewalks before church on Sunday mornings. If you would be willing to help, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Serving this Month

Altar Guild ~ Denise Wegner / Barb Going / Sandy Baranko / Candace Tanksley

Ushers ~ Alan Wegner / Elders

Mid-week Services

December 4 th	Duty Elder	NOA
December 11 th	Duty Elder	NOA
December 18 th	Duty Elder	NOA

December 1, 2024 ~ First Sunday in Advent (blue)

Duty Elders	Martin Bauer / Len Koelbel
Audio/Video	Cheryl Bauer
Organist	NOA
Acolytes	Alex Shabaan / Samuel Schultz
Counters	Martin & Cheryl Bauer

December 8, 2024 ~ Second Sunday in Advent (blue)

Duty Elders	Roy Arves / Shawn Shaw
Audio/Video	Josh Schultz
Organist	Gloria Creek
Acolytes	Caitee Miesmer / Mason Vogel
Counters	Martin & Cheryl Bauer

December 15, 2024 ~ Third Sunday in Advent (blue)

Duty Elders	Len Koelbel / Shawn Sahw
Audio/Video	Isaac Schultz
Organist	NOA
Acolytes	Olivia Clark / Gabriel Shabaan
Counters	Martin & Cheryl Bauer

December 22, 2024 ~ Fourth Sunday in Advent (blue)

Duty Elders	Roy Arves / Bill Sybrant
Audio/Video	Josh Schultz
Organist	NOA
Acolytes	Rachel Schultz / Leif Tanksley
Counters	Martin & Cheryl Bauer

December 24, 2024 ~ The Nativity of Our Lord / Christmas Eve (white)

Duty Elders	Roy Arves / Martin Bauer
Audio/Video	Cheryl Bauer
Organist	NOA
Acolytes	NOA

December 25, 2024 ~ The Nativity of Our Lord / Christmas Day (white)

Duty Elders	Len Koelbel / Martin Bauer
Audio/Video	Cheryl Bauer
Organist	NOA
Acolytes	NOA

December 29, 2024 ~ First Sunday after Christmas (white)

Duty Elder	Reading Service	Martin Bauer / Bill Sybrant
Audio/Video		Cheryl Bauer
Organist		NOA
Acolytes		NOA
Counters		Martin & Cheryl Bauer

If unable to serve on your designated Sunday, please contact the church office (406-452-2121) as soon as possible to allow time to find a substitute.

Birthdays, Wedding, Baptismal and Confirmation Anniversaries

<p>December 3rd Brielyn Ginnaty December 4th Sarah Chapman Aaron Neumann December 5th Donna Hayes</p>		<p>December 22nd Austin Johnson December 24th Chris Magis Cheyenne Sharrah Lynette Copp Justin Lee Ed VanVleet Jarrid Clausen Janelle Houle Ed Hickel Kenzie Legg Kaden Hill Ricardo Dominguez Parker Mansch</p>
<p>December 8th December 10th December 14th Zeke Morrison December 16th December 17th December 18th December 19th</p>	<p>Kelly Norris Kari Smith Courtney Walker Ezra Williams Gunnar Tanksley John Shaw Jessi Payne Charlie Kingland Maycee Graves Sean Ginnaty</p>	<p>December 26th December 27th December 28th December 30th December 31st</p>

December 3rd Tim ♥ Lauralyn Fairbanks (8)
 December 12th Spencer ♥ Jessi Payne (9)
 December 27th Al ♥ Kathleen Redenbaugh (56)
 December 28th George ♥ Myrtle Pence (60)



<p>December 1st December 2nd December 3rd December 5th December 6th December 12th December 13th December 16th</p>		<p>December 19th December 20th December 21st December 22nd December 23rd December 25th December 29th December 30th December 31st</p>	<p>Kathie Sybrant Elisa Broberg Ron Lee Dustin Dalla Mura Rochelle Kimmerle Gabriel Shabaan Gary Somerfeld Gunnar Tanksley Sarah Chapamn Caitee Miesmer Rachel Hill Cassidy Kotz John Shaw</p>
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<p>December 1st December 5th December 6th December 9th December 11th December 14th</p>		<p>December 17th December 18th December 19th December 21st December 22nd</p>	<p>Gary Headington Grace Harr Larry Homen Kat Blumhorst Ron Lee Tina Bink</p>
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