



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



Respect the
Deadline!



MARCH LAMPLIGHTER DEADLINE

Please have your newsletter items into the church office by:

Monday, February 17th!!

The Family of God

What is family? Most generally, we think of our spouse and children, parents and grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, and nephews and nieces. You might have some particularly close friends that have become part of your family. These are the people that we tend to spend holidays with, and these are the people that most frequently appear in photographs on the walls of our house. They are, after all, our flesh and blood.

The Bible speaks of another family though. For most of us, there is some overlap between the two. In the Bible, we read that God has brought Christians together into a family. In *Galatians 4:4-7*, St. Paul writes:

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.”

God has adopted us as sons and daughters as He brought us to faith in Jesus Christ. As God’s children, He gives us the promised inheritance of eternal life for all who have been redeemed by Jesus’ death on the cross for us.

St. John speaks in a similar way in *1 John 3:1-2*, when he says:

“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.”

We are God’s dearly beloved children, who have been brought into an eternal family of the Church. On Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, God calls His family together to receive His good gifts. He gathers us together into the Church as brothers and sisters in Christ to hear His Word, to receive the forgiveness that Jesus won for us on the cross, and to respond with thanks and praise for all that He has done for us.



As God's children, we also show love and compassion to each other. St. Paul writes in *Galatians 6:2*: "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." When one member of the Church suffers, we all suffer, and when one is honored, we rejoice together (*1 Corinthians 12:26*).

The next time you sit down in church, look around you at the family that God has given you within the Church. Think about what a picture of this family, standing in front of the church, would look like. I imagine it would look a bit chaotic, like most of our family pictures. There would probably be a few children goofing around, and a parent trying to straighten them out. Someone in the corner would probably be making jokes, and those within earshot would start laughing. Others would be looking in that direction, trying to figure out what is so funny. Some people would be posing for the camera, and others would be trying to hide from the camera. But it would be a glorious picture, one certainly worth displaying on a wall. For it would be a picture of another part of our family - one that God has gathered together to love each other, to care for one another, and to receive His gifts together. Thanks be to God for His eternal blessings.

Call Received: On Sunday, January 19th I announced that I have received a Call to serve as Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Atwood, KS. Please keep Amy and me, as well as our children, in your prayers as we deliberate this Call. Pray that the Lord's will be done. If you have any questions about the Call process, or thoughts about our deliberations, please reach out to us.

God's Peace be with you,
Pastor Jonathan Schultz

WEE DISCIPLES



John 3:16 – For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life

A favorite song of the Wee Disciples is "Jesus Loves Me." Take time to read the words in that song:



*Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong, They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me! He who died, Heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin, Let His little child come in.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

What a wonderful reassurance to **ALL OF US**, that Jesus loves us! And, especially, what a wonderful reminder this month of valentines and all the talk and songs about love!

The Wee Disciples children had a busy January learning about Arctic animals, hibernation, and other wintry topics. Their Bible stories included learning about the boy Jesus at the temple, Jesus' baptism, and two of the miracles that Jesus performed—the healing of the ten lepers, and Jesus bringing Jarius' daughter back to life. Once each week the children also get the opportunity to sing at *Joyful Sounds*, have music making time, go to the Heisey center for exercise time, and two Fridays a month the bookmobile stops by. Every Tuesday and Friday all Wee Disciples and staff have the opportunity to attend chapel. Every month is filled with busy days and weeks!

Amy Schultz has been appointed to the position of Assistant Director of Wee Disciples and will be working closely with Debbie in this leadership position. Amy will continue in her role as lead teacher in the baby area as well as teaching music to the children. Congratulations, Amy!

Thank you to everyone who continues to participate in our ongoing fundraiser, *Burgers for Benefits*, at Fuddrucker's (third Tuesday of every month) and the rewards program at Smith's. Thank you for sharing your love with Wee Disciples!

The Board of Early Childhood Education would like to welcome LaVelle VanVoast to the board. The next board meeting will be on **February 6th at 6:30pm.**

John 15:12 – This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.



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, February 1st ~ 9:30 am	Group Gathering
Wednesday, Feb 19th ~ 11:30 am	Board Meeting
Saturday, March 8th <i>Peace Lutheran, Great Falls ~ Parade of Tables</i>	
Wednesday, March 19th ~ 11:30 am	Board Meeting
Saturday, April 5th ~ 9:30 am	Group Gathering
Saturday, April 26th ~ TBA	Central Zone Spring Rally
Saturday, May 7th ~ 9:30 am	Group Gathering & Elections
June 26-29, 2025 Omaha, NE	National LWML Convention
April 24-26, 2026 Lewistown, MT	District LWML Convention



Calendar Updates: We will NOT have our Lenten Brunch in March. Instead, we are encouraging ladies from Trinity to attend **Peace Lutheran's "Parade of Tables" on Saturday, March 8th**. Their speaker will be from Echoz Pregnancy Center, whom we supported in December by donating the proceeds of our cookie walk to their renovation fund. *This will be in place of our March group gathering.* More information to come.

At our January group gathering, the LWML ladies approved our 2025 budget, which includes supporting the following missions:

- Trinity Lutheran Camp, Bigfork, MT
- Concordia Seminary food bank, St. Louis, MO
- Concordia Theological Seminary food pantry, Ft. Wayne, IN
- MT Indian Ministries
- Ministry for the Armed Forces (as our special project for 2025)

Thanks to everyone who supports these missions through their gifts and their prayers! If you would like to donate toward their support, please talk to Sherri VanVleet, Sylvia or Amy.

Our next Central Zone event is the **Spring Rally on April 26th**. Please plan to attend and spend time in Christian fellowship with ladies from throughout central Montana. Our upcoming **Montana District LWML Convention** will be **April 24-26, 2026**, in Lewistown. What joyful times ahead!

The **National LWML Convention** will be in Omaha, NE, in June. *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!* Registration opens in March. Please ask Sylvia or Amy for more information. We would love to have several people from Trinity attend this wonderful event!

Our next Group Gathering will be on **Saturday, February 1st at 9:30 am**. We will have time in God's Word, spend time in fellowship, and in prayer. The board will meet on **Wednesday, February 19th at 11:30 am**. There will be no March group gathering; instead, please plan to attend the "Parade of Tables" at Peace Lutheran on March 8th.

Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible study ~ Trinity Ladies' Bible study group meets every **Wednesday morning** in the Stahlecker Room beginning at **9:30am**. The study for February and beyond has yet to be determined. Join us for a morning of fellowship together as we study God's Word.

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.

February comes with hearts, flowers, chocolates, and sweet sentiments. Snowclad mountains beckon those who enjoy winter sports to get out the sleds, skis, snowboards, and snowmobiles. Seed catalogs in the mail have gardeners thinking of spring in spite of the frosty days.

The Friday Ladies Bible study ~ Ladies Friday Bible study will resume, meeting at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave. S. from 1:00-3:00pm on February 14th and 21st. The group will begin a new study of the book of *Ecclesiastes*. Plan to join them for a warm afternoon of fellowship and study...and chocolates, too.

Assisted Living Ministry ~ The Assisted Living Ministry will bring hymn singing and a devotion on **Friday, February 28th from 1:30-2:30pm** to *Highgate Senior Living*, 3000 11th Ave. S. Before the Highgate event there will be a **no host lunch at 11:45am** at *El Comedor*, 1120 25th St. S.

Pastor Reinke will hold worship services at *The Lodge*, 1801 9th St. S. on **Wednesday, February 12th at 1:30pm**. He will conduct worship at *Highgate Senior Living*, 3000 11th Ave. S. on **Monday, February 17th at 1:30pm**. Join the members from Trinity, Peace, and Christ Lutheran for the Deaf at these senior living facilities. They will be delighted to see you for worship!

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.



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.

Plan to join us for our annual
Wild Game Feed / Chili Cook-off
Saturday, February 22nd at 5:00pm



A savory potluck dinner and fellowship. You are welcome to bring a main course (*wild game if you have it*) or side dish to share. Volunteers are needed to help set up at 4:00pm and for clean-up after the meal. This is always a fun event for everyone, so join us for a blessed good time.

COMPARISON OF GIVING REPORT ~ 2024

For the period December 24th through January 19th

December 24 th & 25 th (Christmas Eve & Day)	\$5,667
December 29 th	\$1,985
January 5 th	\$4,635
January 12 th	\$3,010
January 19 th	\$3,362
Vanco	\$1,150



Actual giving for report period: \$19,809

Roof Repair Fund –through 01/19/2025 \$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.

Called Home to Glory

Myrtle Martha Pence
December 14, 2024



Steven Melvin Green
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** (at daughter’s in California), **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

Scott Broberg, USAF; **Daniel Crème'**, USAF; **Ricardo Dominguez**, USAF; **Matthew Erickson**, USAF (Anita Erickson's grandson); **Landon Grosenick**, MANG (Pam Grosenick's grandson); **Chaplain Jonathan Schultz**, USAF Reserves; **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.



The Youth will meet after Church on February 9th. Watch the Grace Notes for more news!

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2025 Officers and Board Members**

President	James Neumann
Vice President	Martin Bauer
Secretary	Cheryl Bauer
Treasurer	Tim Fairbanks
Asst. Treasurer	James Lautenschlager
Board of Elders	Martin Bauer, Chairman Len Koelbel, Shawn Shaw, Bill Sybrant Scott Broberg, Ron VanVoast
Board of Trustees	Don Lee Matt & Candace Tanksley
Board of Education	Sarah Lautenschlager
Board of Missions and Evangelism	OD Jones Roy Arves, Len Koelbel
Board of Stewardship	OD Jones

Board of Youth	Sam & Alyssa Birkett
LWML	Sylvia Adams, Myrna Philipp Sherri VanVleet, Amy Schultz
Board of Early Childhood Education	Myrna Philipp Reverend Jonathan Schultz, LaVelle VanVoast Kristen Mansch, Rochelle Kimmerle, Jenny Shaw Reverend Joshua Reinke, Mitch Martin Brook Gerard Debbie Lee ~ Advisory
Endowments Committee	Keener Boyce Jenny Shaw, Jim Going Patti Jones, Alice Schuman

Worship Assistants



FEBRUARY



Serving this Month

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

Ushers ~ Alan Wegner / Elders

Mid-week Services

February 5 th	Duty Elder	Martin Bauer
February 12 th	Duty Elder	Shawn Shaw
February 19 th (Reading Service)	Duty Elder	Martin Bauer
February 26 th	Duty Elder	Bill Sybrant

February 2, 2025 ~ Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany (green)

Duty Elders	Len Koelbel / Bill Sybrant
Audio/Video	Isaac Schultz
Organist	NOA
Acolytes	Ross Broberg / Olivia Clark
Counters	Ron VanVoast

February 9, 2025 ~ Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany (green)

Duty Elders	Shawn Shaw / Bill Sybrant
Audio/Video	Josh Schultz
Organist	Gloria Creek
Acolytes	Tracy Miesmer / Rachel Schultz
Counters	Alan & Denise Wegner



February 16, 2025 ~ Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany (green)

Duty Elders	Martin Bauer / Len Koelbel
Audio/Video	Cheryl Bauer
Organist	NOA
Acolytes	Samuel Schultz / Meredith Tabbert
Counters	Alan & Denise Wegner

February 23, 2025 ~ Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany (green)

Duty Elders	Shawn Shaw / Bill Sybrant
Audio/Video	Isaac Schultz
Organist	NOA
Acolytes	Olivia Clark / Mason Voegel
Counters	Alan & Denise Wegner

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 and Wedding, Baptismal and Confirmation Anniversaries

<p>February 2nd <i>Mattie Norris</i> <i>Lois Phillips</i></p> <p>February 3rd <i>Emily Justice</i></p> <p>February 4th <i>Gary Neumann</i></p> <p>February 5th <i>Gary Headington</i> <i>Randy Klatt</i></p> <p>February 7th <i>Lacee Brown</i> <i>Mary Somerfeld, LaVelle VanVoast</i></p> <p>February 8th <i>Brayden Ginnaty</i></p> <p>February 9th <i>Ron Lee</i></p> <p>February 10th <i>Evelyn Dominguez</i></p> <p>February 11th <i>Laura Filson, Linda Wade</i></p> <p>February 12th <i>Hudson Kotz, Jasen Remus</i></p> <p>February 13th <i>Riley Kotz, Jacob Mansch</i></p> <p>February 14th <i>Caleb Bicsak</i></p> <p>February 15th <i>Vi Nell (90+)</i></p>		<p>February 17th <i>Louise Kuki</i></p> <p>February 18th <i>Alexandria Young</i></p> <p>February 19th <i>Travis Copp</i> <i>Laney Wied</i></p> <p>February 20th <i>Jon Schroeder</i> <i>Lauretta Stanfield (80+)</i></p> <p>February 21st <i>Carson Bauer</i> <i>Hunter Sharrah</i></p> <p>February 22nd <i>Nolan Joyce</i></p> <p>February 23rd <i>Rayn Ginnaty</i></p> <p>February 24th <i>Austin Webb</i></p> <p>February 26th <i>Judy Lively (80+)</i> <i>Melissa Soldano</i></p> <p>February 27th <i>Tracy Miesmer</i> <i>Dakota Sharrah</i></p> <p>February 28th <i>Chad Mans</i></p>
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<p>February 1st</p> <p>February 4th</p> <p>February 7th</p> <p>February 8th</p> <p>February 12th</p> <p>February 14th</p> <p>February 20th</p> <p>February 22nd</p> <p>February 25th</p> <p>February 26th</p> <p>February 27th</p>		<p><i>Justin Lee</i></p> <p><i>Mick Jones</i></p> <p><i>Kenzie Legg</i></p> <p><i>Martin Bauer</i></p> <p><i>Ruth Brenner</i></p> <p><i>Molly Church, Hailey, Hannah & Hayden Houle, Sarah Lautenschlager</i></p> <p><i>Denise Rutledge</i></p> <p><i>Kathie Gessaman, Louise Keith</i></p> <p><i>Tim Chapman, Maryanne Kingland</i></p> <p><i>Anita Chapman, Samuel Chapman</i></p> <p><i>Ed Hickel, Hudson Kotz, Henry Schuman</i></p>
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FEBRUARY *confirmation anniversaries*

<p>February 2nd</p> <p>February 17th</p> <p>February 29th</p>	<p><i>Marty Eberly</i></p> <p><i>Sandy Schroeder</i></p> <p><i>Lauralyn Fairbanks</i></p> <p><i>Bob Blomstrom</i></p>
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