



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



During the Epiphany season that begins on January 6 each year, we take the opportunity to look at the unique and miraculous appearances of God to his people throughout the biblical record. This year, the Old Testament readings for the Epiphany season include the call of Samuel as the Lord's prophet, the story of Jonah prophetically preaching in Nineveh which leads to the heathen city repenting, God's Messianic promise of a great prophet like Moses, and God's proclamation through the prophet Isaiah that there is no god like him so his people should wait for him.

Throughout history God has revealed himself to the world, and especially to his chosen ones, his identity, purpose, and will. All that he reveals demonstrates that he seeks to draw all people to him at all times, in all places, and in the midst of all circumstances, even when his own people do not like what they hear from him. During Samuel's prophetic ministry God withdrew his presence from Israel because the people rejected God's leadership, opting for a human king instead. Jonah rebelled against God's command to go and preach repentance to Israel's Assyrian enemies and was mercifully disciplined by God as a result. From Moses' time onward, God's people hoped for a prophet who would tell them what they wanted to hear. And, finally, as Isaiah's prophetic ministry demonstrated, God's people almost always struggle with waiting on him.

Solomon said, "there is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9). His words are as true today as they were nearly 3,000 years

ago. Today, as always, we should heed God’s word, spoken through his prophets, and focus on him and his revelations to us, and then apply their lessons in the midst of current events. A new American administration will bring change in our political direction. Whether this will be of short-term or long-term benefit for our nation remains to be seen. Distribution of the COVID vaccines is ramping up. How beneficial the results from these vaccines will be remains to be seen. Financial markets will have their ups and downs which will affect our ability to maintain our standard of living.

In the midst of whatever 2021 will bring, our focus needs to remain on God’s promises to us, made through those whom God gave prophetic utterance. Remember God’s eternal mercy, and grace that brings forgiveness through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Trust that God provides all our needs, even when life is difficult. Confidently live your daily life in the promise that he will never leave us nor forsake us.

While we do not know what the future holds for daily life, we know without a doubt that our future holds eternal life in God’s presence because of Jesus’ suffering, death, and resurrection on our behalf. With that in mind, joyfully anticipate how God will accomplish his will in 2021.

Pastor Bruce Zagel

Tuesday evening Bible study ~ The members of Trinity are invited to join Pastor Zagel each Tuesday evening for a Bible study via Zoom. If you would like to participate and we do not have your email address, please contact the church office so we can get you on the list to receive the link. If you are on our email list and wish to participate, let the church office know so that we can get you the link to join in. They are currently studying *The Acts of the Apostles*.



**FEBRUARY LAMPLIGHTER
DEADLINE**

Thursday, January 21st!!

WEE DISCIPLES

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart”

Proverbs 3:5



*“As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by Thee.”*

Sunday, November 29th, was the first Sunday in the church new year. Friday, January 1st, marks the first day of the calendar new year. As we reflect back on 2020, we are thankful for the blessings that we received throughout this chaotic year—most especially the blessing of Wee Disciples being able to remain open throughout the ups and downs of the coronavirus pandemic. We are especially thankful to Debbie and the staff for all their hard work that went into keeping Wee Disciples operational through all of these challenging days! We look forward with optimism and hope for what God has in store for us in 2021! And, as the words in the song above say-- *So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by Thee.*

We are thankful for the continued prayers and support from our families, friends, and congregational members! In an attempt to be as safe and careful as possible with the health and safety of our children and staff, we have not been able to have volunteers working at the facility during the pandemic. We look forward to the time when it will be safe for our Foster Grandma and other volunteers to return. We miss our volunteers! We are thankful to have Miss Judy (Boyce) helping with our *Joyful Noise* singing program via Zoom each week!

God continues to bless us with as full an enrollment as we can safely maintain at Wee Disciples at this time. Thank you to the many families who entrust the care and nurturing of your little ones to us! Currently, due to lack of staff and lack of space for social distancing, we are unable to provide programs for school age children after school and on school holidays. We are hopeful that at some time in the future we can safely consider providing these services again.

We will continue throughout 2021 with our *Burgers for Benefits* at Fuddrucker's the third Tuesday of every month. Our next fundraising evening will be on January 19th from 5:00 to 9:00pm. Dine-in or takeout are available. We are thankful to Fuddrucker's for continuing this fundraising opportunity for us. Also, the Smith's Rewards is an ongoing fundraiser for Wee Disciples. For more information about either of these fundraising opportunities, check the church website or the bulletin board by the Wee Disciples' check-in computer for more details. Thank you for your continued support with these fundraisers!

Happy New Year!

Sunday School needs your help! We are looking for at least one individual who is willing to be a substitute teacher when needed. I will have all materials and notes prepared and ready for you in advance, so minimal time requirements on your part. There are times I will be out of town and I do not want to have to cancel Sunday school if I do not have to. Give me a call if you are interested! Sarah Lautenschlager (406)899-5952



All ladies of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend all LWML happenings here at Trinity.

PLEASE NOTE: The January LWML Group Gathering will be held on January 6th at 11:30 am after the Women's Bible study. The LWML board would like ideas for Mission Projects for 2021. Please contact Sherri VanVleet with your ideas. These ideas and the 2021 budget will be discussed at the January 6th Group Gathering.

Sherri VanVleet took several items to the Juvenile Detention Center that members of the congregation donated. Thank you to our congregation for all their support for this worthy cause.

January 6, 2021, 11:30 am ~ LWML Group Gathering

January 27, 2021, 11:30am ~ LWML Board meeting



JANUARY

Anniversaries

<i>January 1st</i>	<i>James ♥ Ashlee Graves (13)</i>
<i>January 2nd</i>	<i>Gary ♥ Mary Somerfeld (39)</i>
<i>January 21st</i>	<i>Robert ♥ Bobbie Voegel (15)</i>
<i>January 24th</i>	<i>Mason ♥ Courtney Walker (18)</i>
<i>January 25th</i>	<i>Mel ♥ Ruby Willey (48)</i>



JANUARY

Birthdays

<i>January 1st</i>	<i>Harper Lautenschlager</i>
<i>January 5th</i>	<i>Sheldon Burkstrand, Bill Sybrant</i>
<i>January 9th</i>	<i>Marlyn Gersack</i>
<i>January 10th</i>	<i>Anita Erickson</i>
<i>January 12th</i>	<i>Kathleen Redenbaugh</i>
<i>January 13th</i>	<i>Joseph Nommensen</i>
<i>January 15th</i>	<i>Sandra Baranko</i>
<i>January 17th</i>	<i>Bob Nommensen</i>
<i>January 19th</i>	<i>Lucy Hall</i>
<i>January 20th</i>	<i>Martin Bauer, Anita Chapman, Chuck Lively (80+)</i>
<i>January 21st</i>	<i>Hayden Houle, Blaize Wegner, Seth Wheeler</i>
<i>January 26th</i>	<i>Sam Chapman, James Neumann</i>



JANUARY

Baptisms

<i>January 1st</i>	<i>Mike Grams, Debbie Lee, Leslie Lee, Randi Meehan Helen Suek, Joy Suek, Sherri VanVleet</i>
<i>January 3rd</i>	<i>Penny Hill, Courtney Schroeder</i>
<i>January 4th</i>	<i>Shayna Kellogg</i>
<i>January 5th</i>	<i>Dennis Philipp</i>
<i>January 7th</i>	<i>Juanita Winter</i>
<i>January 8th</i>	<i>Sean Ginnaty</i>
<i>January 10th</i>	<i>Russ Waetzig</i>
<i>January 24th</i>	<i>Kolter Legg</i>
<i>January 25th</i>	<i>Ada Burkstrand</i>
<i>January 26th</i>	<i>Aaron Neumann, Pam Nommensen</i>



JANUARY

Confirmations

<i>January 1st</i>	<i>Wendy Doll, Mike Grams, Arlene Royland Alice Schuman, Henry Schuman, Joy Suek, Russ Waetzig</i>
<i>January 14th</i>	<i>Chris Legg</i>
<i>January 27th</i>	<i>Tonya Wandke</i>
<i>January 28th</i>	<i>Sean Ginnaty</i>



Worship Assistants



Serving this Month

Acolyte ~ Elders

Altar Guild ~ Denise Wegner / Cheryl Bauer

Audio/Video ~ Martin & Cheryl Bauer

Counters ~ NOA

Ushers ~ Alan Wegner / Elders

January 3, 2021 ~ 2nd Sunday after Christmas (white)

Duty Elders

Roy Arves / Martin Bauer

Organist

Joy Suek

January 10, 2021 ~ The Baptism of Our Lord (white)

Duty Elders

Shawn Shaw / Bill Sybrant

Organist

Jeannine Eastley



January 17, 2021 ~ 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany (green)

Duty Elders

Len Koelbel / Bob Nommensen

Organist

Jeannine Eastley

January 24, 2021 ~ 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany (green)

Duty Elders (Rev. Mark Schultz)

Roy Arves / Shawn Shaw

Organist

Joy Suek

January 31, 2021 ~ 4th Sunday after the Epiphany (green)

Duty Elders (Rev. Mark Schultz)

Len Koelbel / Bill Sybrant

Organist

NOA

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.

COMPARISON OF GIVING REPORT ~ 2020

For the period November 26, 2020 through December 27, 2020

November 26 th (<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>)	\$ 825
November 29 th	\$1,786
December 6 th	\$4,172
December 13 th	\$2,675
December 20 th	\$3,702
December 24 th & 25 th (<i>Christmas Eve & Day</i>)	\$4,657
December 27 th	\$2,350

Actual giving for report period: \$20,167

Roof Repair Fund –through 12/27/2020 \$14,030

If you have any questions, please call me at 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.

A Reminder to Use Your New Offering Envelopes

**Offering
Envelopes**



New boxes of offering envelopes for **2021 (GREEN in color)** were issued Monday, December 21, 2020. **Please destroy any remaining 2020 BUFF colored offering envelopes !!!**

Begin using the GREEN offering envelopes SUNDAY, January 3, 2020.

You are encouraged to use your offering envelopes for each church offering. Using your envelopes speeds the money counting process and ensures that you will receive credit for your contribution. **Also, please remember to write the amount of your contribution on the line provided on the front of the envelope.** This is very helpful to those counting the offering. If you are not using your envelopes at this time, please do so in the future.

End-of-Year Statements ~ The treasurer's office is preparing to finalize the statements that each contributing member receives. This year we are offering, to those members who would be interested, to send your year-end statement electronically. All you need to do is let the church office know **before January 10, 2021** and we will confirm your email address. Then when the statements go out you will receive yours in your inbox. This will help reduce costs (paper, envelope, printing and postage).

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

To follow the CCHD guidelines for social distancing, **Trinity will have every other pew roped off in the Sanctuary.** We ask all members to please respect the need for social distancing and please keep 6 feet apart as much as is possible. If it is not possible to spread out, please consider having a face mask to wear. These measures are not only for your safety but for the safety of your brothers and sisters here at Trinity. We will continue to offer hand sanitizer and disposable face masks at the entrance to the Sanctuary.

A Reminder!

Please do not park in the loading area directly in front of church.

Use this area for loading and unloading of passengers only! *Thank you*

If you are interested in sharing your talents by serving on the Altar Guild, we would greatly appreciate your help. There are no formal meetings and duties are a month at a time to fit your schedule, with duties shared during Holy Week and Christmas. If you would be interested in just taking on one part of the altar duties such as filling the candles or washing the linens that would be appreciated as well. For more information, please contact Denise Wegner at 452-2241 or 791-7275.



Our shut-ins:



Vi Biberdorf at Highgate House
Eleanor Boumans at Highgate House
Ellen Carpenter at Eagle's Manor
Anita Erickson at home

Evelyn McNaught at Bee Hive Homes (Sage)

Bob Nommensen Sr. at home

Myrtle Pence at Benefis Eastview Memory Care

Dorothy Rosenberg at Rivers Edge Assisted Living

Gordan Stach at Bee Hive Homes (Clover)

Myrtle Storhaug at Golden Eagles

Juanita Winter at home

Our members and their caregivers who continue to battle health issues:

Ron & Yvonne Lee

Chuck & Judy Lively

Chuck & Elsie Lorenz

Jerry & Colleen Mans

Henry & Alice Schuman

Gene & Joy Suek

Wally & Diane Thompson

Those serving in the military:

Matthew Erickson, USAF
(Anita Erickson's grandson)
Joshua Graham, USA
(Blomstrom's grandson-in-law)
Clifton Grilley, USN
(Headington's son)

Jared Grina, USN
(Headington's son-in-law)
Krista Kotz, USAF
Brendan Murphy, USMC
(Sylvia Adam's grandson)
Tanner Tilton, USAF
(Millie Birkholz's grandson)

We pray for the Montana District pastors serving as missionaries abroad:

Rev. Gerald & Heidi Paul ~ Cayman Islands
Rev. David & Jennifer Preus ~ Dominican Republic
Rev. Andrew & Kelsey Schlund ~ Mexico
Rev. Eric & Johanna Stinnett ~ Ethiopia

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 towards their ministries by check. *Mail your check, made payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and designated 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.

Calling Our New Pastor ~ Sunday, December 13th at the most recent call meeting, the voters selected Reverend Mark Chepulis from Cavalier, ND, to be called as our next pastor. Pastor Chepulis has the call documents and is considering the call. Please keep him, his family and his congregations in your prayers as he deliberates.

A Thank You from FISH ~ God bless you for your support of the FISH program. Thanks for the many ways in which you have helped FISH this past year; giving of financial gifts; offering prayers for our success; donating food and contributing to the Town Pump Challenge. Because of your generous giving, Town Pump will be matching \$20,000 this year!

Due to COVID19, FISH has had to adjust. We are very careful with mask wearing, social distancing, installing a new plastic shield, and only having one client entering at a time. We hope that the Loaves & Fishes dinner can be held again in 2021.

This New Year, as you consider all the blessings that have come to you through Jesus, God's perfect gift, remember that it is but a taste of good things yet to come.

Address Changes

Rev. Gerald & Heidi Paul
Emma, Matthias

*20 Voyager Ln. Unit B
Bozeman, MT 59718-3203*

Mikaela (Shaw) & Josh Neill

*280 Fell St. Apt. 405
San Francisco, CA 94102-5173*

Morgan Shaw

*8947 Bruce St.
Thornton, CO 80260-4908*
