the Lamplighter



Trinity Lutheran Church
Wee Disciples Preschool & Daycare
1226 First Avenue North
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(406) 452-2121



Set Apart to Serve: A Variety of Gifts

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:4-7 ESV)

When you show up to Church on Sunday, November 29th, you will undoubtedly notice that everything looks different. The Sanctuary will be decorated with Christmas trees adorned with lights and Chrismons - Christian symbols that teach us about who God is and what He has done for us through Jesus Christ. You will see a Nativity Scene on top of the piano by the pulpit, reminding us of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. You will find Christmas decorations all over the building, reminding us of the reason we celebrate: Christ, our Savior, is born for us. On Sunday, you might see me pull a Chrismon off the tree and explain to the children how it points to Jesus. But even though I was around when the tree went up, I doubt I was the one who put it on the tree in the first place. More likely than not, one of you put it there.

If you were here on Saturday, November 28th, you might know how much work was involved in decorating the Church. It takes many hands to get those trees into place, the lights strung, and the Chrismons hung. If you were not here to help, you might just wonder who was all involved. Do you think you could name them all? I doubt I could, and I was there!

There is a conversation that I have had numerous times over my years at Trinity. Someone will notice something, perhaps for the first time, and they will come up to me to ask who takes care of it. Sometimes, I know the answer and can point them to the person in charge. But more often than you might expect, I don't have a clue. There are many things that happen around this place that, even after five years, I still am not sure who does them.

Even when I cannot tell you who took care of something, I know who to thank for the people who did. Listen again to St. Paul. In those four verses from 1 Corinthians 12, Paul speaks of "varieties" three times, and three times he uses the word "same." There is the same Spirit, the same Lord, and the same God who is at work among His people. And why does God give us such a variety of gifts? St. Paul tells us that they are given "for the common good."

Those gifts are of great benefit during the Advent and Christmas Seasons. On Wednesdays in December, we gather for Soup Suppers (6:00 pm) and Midweek Advent Services (7:00 pm). There are many people involved, from those who prepare the Fellowship Hall, to the cooks and bakers who make the food, to those who clean up afterwards. The vocal choir is preparing music to sing, while the handbell choir is preparing music to play. Each

of those groups has people who get everything ready ahead of time. Our Sunday School children and youth, with the help of teachers and parents, are preparing for the Children's program during the Divine Service on December 13th, and bakers are preparing goodies for the Cookie Walk after the service that day. Services are planned, bulletins are prepared and printed, they are distributed, candles are lit, and the sound system is running.

People are picking up shut-ins, calling on friends, and dropping by to visit. And God's people gather together in the Sanctuary to receive His good gifts! Even though all of this work is a bit more obvious during Advent and Christmas, this is the reality of every day at Trinity Lutheran Church.

When we gather on Christmas Eve, most of us will see the Sanctuary ready for service. None of us will have seen all the work that took place to make everything ready. Each person will have used the gifts that God gave them to help us gather and rejoice at the Good News that Christ, our Savior, is born for us.

What gifts has God given you? He gives gifts to each one of us, as St. Paul writes. How can you use them in service to His Church and His Kingdom? Perhaps you could call someone and offer them a ride to church or invite a neighbor to come with you.

To those of you who have quietly taken care of things around here for years, thank you for all you do. We are grateful for the way in which you serve, even when we see only a small part of what you do. This Advent Season, I give thanks to God for all of you and for the ways in which God is working through you to serve in His Kingdom.

Pastor Jonathan Schultz



JANUARY LAMPLIGHTER DEADLINE

Please have your articles, tidbits and calendar items into the church office by:

Monday, December 21st!!

WEE DISCIPLES



There is nothing quite like hearing the Christmas story being presented by children. The wonder of Jesus' birth - the angels heralding the Good News to the shepherds, the shepherds visiting the baby in the manger - seems all the more glorious when seen through the eyes of a child. The students at Wee Disciples spend all of December celebrating the seasons of Advent and Christmas in and out of the classroom. We also decorate gingerbread houses and make special holiday treats. The highlight of our celebrations is our ***Christmas Family Chapel***, which will be on ***Thursday, December 17th at 6:30 pm***. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to join us as we celebrate Jesus' birthday!

Thank you to everyone who has helped Wee Disciples with your time, talents, donations and prayers throughout this past year! As a mission of Trinity Lutheran Church, we are truly blessed by your support.

This month *Burgers for Benefits at Fuddruckers'* will be on **Tuesday, December 15th from 5:00 to 9:00pm**. Coupons are posted on the announcement board by the church office. You can also show a picture of the coupon on your phone. Dine in and carry out are both available. We are also continuing to participate in the Smith's Rewards program, *Smith's Inspiring Donations*. And if you are a member of Thrivent Financial, you can direct your Choice Dollars to benefit Wee Disciples as well. Thank you to everyone who continues to support us through these fundraising activities! The Board of Early Childhood Education will meet next on **Thursday, December 3rd at 6:30pm** in the Stahleckher Room.

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.



Sunday, December 6th will be ***Undie Sunday***. We will be collecting packages of new underwear (any size or gender) to donate to the Rescue Mission. Please help us by bringing new undies that day.

Saturday, December 12th will be our ***Advent Brunch***. All ladies are welcome to attend and enjoy a potluck brunch with program.

Sunday, December 13th is the ***Cookie Walk and Bake Sale!*** This year we are expanding to pies and breads, in addition to our cookies. Donations of sale items are always welcome, but the fun part is to browse the tables to pick and choose what to take home (or to the office) to enjoy. 50% of our proceeds will fund our mission projects for 2027 and the other 50% will go toward the Trinity Roof Fund. Suggested donations will include $12 per pie, $8 per dozen cookies, and various breads will be priced individually. Join in the fun, and thanks for your support!

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 ~ Believe it or not Advent is here! We will be having Advent soup suppers followed by an Advent service each Wednesday again this year. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office. Please sign up for items to bring each week. See you on **December 2nd** for our first Advent Mid-Week service.

COMPARISON OF GIVING REPORT ~ 2026

For the period October25th through November 22nd



October 25th		$2,700
November 1st		$5,884
November 8th		$4,745
November 15th		$4,720
November 22nd		$3,700
Vanco		$1,930
Actual giving for report period:	**$23,679**	
Roof Replacement Fund *(as of November 22nd)*		$52,760

If you have any questions, please call me at (406) 403-3596 ~ *Cindy Stene, Bookkeeper*

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 ~ New boxes of offering envelopes for **2027 (PINK in color)** will be issued Wednesday, December 16, 2026**. The last time to use the 2026 Buff envelopes is December 27, 2026! Please destroy any remaining 2026 BUFF offering envelopes after December 27, 2026.**

Begin using the PINK colored offering envelopes SUNDAY, January 3, 2027.

End-of-Year Contributions will need to be in **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 27, 2026,** in order to be counted toward your pledge for 2026. Please be sure to bring those contributions to church 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). We will make one final deposit for 2026 on December 27, 2026, after the worship service.

Please note: The church office will be closed December 24th through January 3rd

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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.

Fellowship Time Set-up Help Needed!! We are looking for individuals or couples who would be willing to help set up the coffee and cookies for Sunday mornings. If you are interested, please talk to Pastor (406-402-2081) or Cheryl (406-452-2121).

Fellowship Time Clean-up Help Needed!! We are also looking for individuals, couples, families or groups who would be willing to help with the tear down and clean-up follow Fellowship time each Sunday. If you are interested, please talk to Pastor (406-402-2081) or Cheryl (406-452-2121).

A/V Help Needed ~ If you would be interested in helping, contact Pastor (406-402-2081) or Cheryl (406-452-2121) for more information.

Offering Counters are needed to assist the Treasurer and Bookkeeper in counting and recording the offerings following each Sunday service. No experience is needed; training will be provided. Please call the Ron VanVoast (307-631-5949), church office (406-452-2121) or sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office if you are willing to assist with this necessary mission.

Wee Disciples Job Opening ~ Wee Disciples is currently hiring for the summer and fall. We are looking for full and part-time Early Childhood staff members. We are open Monday-Friday from 7:00am to 6:00pm with flexible scheduling. If you enjoy working with children and spreading the message and love of God, this is the opportunity for you! Please contact Director Debbie Lee at (406) 799-5881 or Trinity Lutheran Church at (406) 452-2121 for more information.

Don't Forget….

Roof Replacement Fund ~ We have scheduled this project for June 2027. Members are encouraged to continue contributing to the Roof Replacement Fund. There are special envelopes in the back of the Sanctuary to place your donations in. If you have questions about this project, please talk to James Neumann, Cheryl Bauer or Pastor Schultz.

Trinity Scholarships ~ There are envelopes in the back of the Sanctuary for those wanting to contribute to the Trinity/Wee Disciples Scholarship Fund.

Wednesday Ladies Bible study ~ **Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00am** in the Stahlecker Room. All the ladies of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend.



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.



Handbell Choir and Adult Choir started rehearsing in September.

We are always looking for new members! Handbells meets **Tuesdays at 5:45 pm** and Adult Choir meets **Wednesdays at 5:30 pm**. Please contact Judy Boyce or Amy Schultz for more information.

Come join us in making a joyful noise unto the Lord!





Our shut-ins

Mildred Birkholz (The Lodge), **Joyce Bush** (at home), **Ellen Carpenter** (Golden Eagle Plaza), **Anita Erickson** (at home). **Ed Hickel** (at home), **Arleen Nelson** (Rosetta Assisted Living), **Lauretta Stanfield** (at home); **Barbara Zafft** (The Lodge)

Bob Blomstrom (Helena)
Lucy Ann Hall (at son's home in Las Vegas)
Darlene Murray (at son's home in Kansas)

Our members who continue to battle health issues and their caregivers

Roy & Carolyn Arves, Jim & Barb Going *(Washington)*, **Chuck & Judy Lively**
Jerry & Colleen Mans, Henry & Alice Schuman, Lindy & Lauretta Stanfield

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We pray for those serving in the military and our First Responders

Sam Birkett, Cascade County Detective; **Matt Clark**, Great Falls Emergency Services

Scott Backus, MANG; **Scott Broberg**, USAF; **Ricardo Dominguez**, USAF; **Caleb Eberly**, USA; **Jacob Eberly**, USA; **Matthew Erickson**, USAF (Anita Erickson's grandson); **Landon Grosenick**, MANG (Pam Grosenick's grandson); **Chaplain Jonathan Schultz**, USAF Reserves; **Mychal Taylor**, MANG; **Vail VanVoast** (LaVelle & Ron's granddaughter), MANG **Mattie Young**, ANG

We pray for our Montana District missionaries…

John & Jenn Wolf ~ Kenya **Rev. Dr. Gerald & Heidi Paul** ~ Peru

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

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 **first and 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**.

Youth Page

Youth (7th grade through 12th grade) are invited to join us on the third Sunday each month at 11:30am for Bible study, lunch and fun!

Youth are also encouraged to attend Bible study each Sunday morning in the Youth Room at 8:30am.

They're Back!!

Cards ~ (both Christmas and all occasion)

Notepads and **calendars**!



Price:

Notepads	$3.00
All Occasion Cards	$8.00
Christmas Card	$8.00
Calendars	$10.00

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

Please note: The church office will be closed December 24th through January 3rd

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Congregational Christmas Decorating
Saturday, November 28th ~ 9:30am



First Sunday in Advent ~ November 29th
Sunday school & Bible study ~ 8:30 am
Divine Service ~ 10:00 am

First Advent Mid-week ~ December 2nd
Soup Supper ~ 6:00 pm Worship 7:00 pm

Second Sunday in Advent ~ December 6th
Sunday school & Bible study ~ 8:30 am
Divine Service ~ 10:00 am

Second Advent Mid-week ~ December 9th
Soup Supper ~ 6:00pm Worship 7:00 pm





Third Sunday in Advent ~ December 13th
Sunday school & Bible study ~ 8:30 am
Divine Service w/ Children's Christmas Message ~ 10:00 am

Third Advent Mid-week ~ December 16th
Soup Supper ~ 6:00 pm Worship 7:00 pm

Fourth Sunday in Advent ~ December 20th
Sunday school & Bible study ~ 8:30 am
Divine Service ~ 10:00 am





Christmas Eve ~ Thursday, December 24th
Family Worship ~ 7:00 pm

Christmas Day ~ Friday, December 25th
Divine Service ~ 10:00 am

First Sunday after Christmas ~ December 27th
Divine Service ~ 10:00 am

DECEMBER 2026

Serving this Month

Altar Guild ~ Denise Wegner / Sandy Baranko

Ushers ~ Alan Wegner / Roy Arves / Len Koelbel / Elders

Mid-week Service Duty Elder	
December 2, 2026	NOA
December 9, 2026	NOA
December 16, 2026	NOA

December 6, 2026 ~ Second Sunday in Advent (blue)	
Duty Elders	Martin Bauer / Bill Sybrant
Audio/Video	Isaac Schultz
Organist	Gloria Creek
Counters	Bauer
Fellowship Set-up ~ Jessica Brookie	Fellowship Clean-up ~ Judy Boyce

December 13, 2026 ~ Third Sunday in Advent (blue)	
Duty Elders	Matthew Clark / Shawn Shaw
Audio/Video	Denise Rutledge
Organist	Gloria Creek
Counters	Bauer
Fellowship Set-up ~ NOA	Fellowship Clean-up ~ LWML

December 20, 2026 ~ Fourth Sunday in Advent (blue)	
Duty Elders	Bill Sybrant / Ron VanVoast
Audio/Video/Music	Isaac Schultz
Counters	Bauer
Fellowship Set-up ~ Alyssa Birkett	Fellowship Clean-up ~ Elsie Lorenz



December 24, 2026 ~ Christmas Eve Family Service (white)	
Duty Elders	Martin Bauer / Scott Broberg
Audio/Music	Cheryl Bauer

December 25, 2026 ~ The Nativity of Our Lord / Christmas Day (white)	
Duty Elders	Martin Bauer / Ron VanVoast
Organist	Gloria Creek

December 27, 2026 ~ First Sunday after Christmas ~ (white)	
Duty Elders	Scott Broberg / Ron VanVoast
Audio/Video/Music	Denise Rutledge
Counters	Bauer
Fellowship Set-up ~ Alyssa Birkett	Fellowship Clean-up ~ Sandra Baranko

Birthdays

Wedding, Baptismal and Confirmation Anniversaries



December 3rd Brielyn Ginnaty
December 4th Ada Harr
December 5th Kari Smith
December 6th Jessica Brookie
December 8th Ezra Williams
December 10th Gunnar Tanksley
December 12th Holly Young
December 14th John Shaw
December 16th Jessi Payne
December 17th Charlie Kingland
December 19th Sean Ginnaty
Leif Tanksley
December 24th Chris Magis
Cheyenne Sharrah
December 26th Lynette Copp
Ed VanVleet (80+)
December 28th Ed Hickel
December 31st
Ricardo Dominguez



December 3rd
December 12th
December 27th

Tim ♥ Lauralyn Fairbanks (10)
Spencer ♥ Jessi Payne (11)
Al ♥ Kathleen Redenbaugh (58)





December 1st
Channing Hartelius
December 3rd Heidi Paul
Jason Young
December 5th
Colton Martello
Logan Stene
December 6th
Spencer Payne
December 7th Daniel Neumann
December 12th Ezra Williams
December 13th Cheryl Bauer
December 14th Ada Harr
December 16th Patrick Norris
December 19th
Kathie Sybrant
December 20th
Elisa Broberg
December 21st Ron Lee
December 23rd
Rochelle Kimmerle
December 25th
Gabriel Shabaan
Gunnar Tanksley
December 28th Holly Young
December 29th Caitee Miesmer
December 31st John Shaw



December 1st Judy Lively
December 5th Ruby Willey
December 6th Spencer Payne
December 9th Rev. Gerald Paul
December 14th Heidi Paul
December 18th Grace Harr
Larry Homen
December 21st Ron Lee
December 22nd Tina Bink