



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



Respect the  
Deadline!



## **FEBRUARY LAMPLIGHTER DEADLINE**

Please have your newsletter items into the church office by:

**Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>!!**

### **The Light Shines in the Darkness**

The Christmas lights which graced our homes and neighborhoods will soon be taken down. Christmas trees will soon be dismantled or discarded, if not already. Decorations have been packed up and stowed away for another year. And while the days are getting longer, it will be quite a while before we eat an evening meal before the sun sets.

These are the dark and bleak days of winter. The festivities of Christmas and New Year have faded away, even if the memories of 2024 will not soon be forgotten.

Winter seems to be a bit elusive so far this year, at least here in Central Montana. We might find ourselves longing for some semblance of winter with the moisture that comes with the snow.

Some people began this New Year dreading what might come in their lives, and in the world. Others find themselves full of hope.

There is hope to be found in this New Year, but it's not the kind of hope that comes with the prospect of sunlight. Our hope is found in the coming of the Christ child.

The prophet Isaiah spoke of that hope some 800 years before the birth of Jesus: *Isaiah 60:1-3 (ESV)*

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.

<sup>3</sup>And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

No matter how dark and gloomy the world may seem, we have a hope that shines through the darkness. As Saint John writes, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" *John 1:5*.



Jesus has come as the Light of the World. A few weeks ago, we celebrated Christ's birth. Now, we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. The Epiphany – celebrated each year on January 6<sup>th</sup> – is the day that the Church remembers the revelation of Jesus to the World. The Season of Epiphany lasts until Ash Wednesday. In the days and weeks to come, we will hear about the Magi coming from the East to worship Jesus; about Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River; and about how Jesus called His disciples to follow Him.

Our hope rests in Jesus. He gives us an everlasting hope rooted in His death and resurrection through which He grants us forgiveness, life, and salvation. No matter what may come in this New Year, rejoice in the Lord. He has come to bring us salvation.

*Pastor Jonathan Schultz*

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## WEE DISCIPLES

*Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east and are come to worship him.*  
*Matthew 2:1-2*



The new church year began on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> when we started the season of Advent, leading up to Christmas, and the secular new year begins now on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Have a happy and blessed new year! Wee Disciples will be closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Wee Disciples Christmas Family Chapel on the evening of December 19<sup>th</sup>. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to share the Christmas story in song and scripture with their families and friends!

Wee Disciples will celebrate Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Epiphany is the last day of Christmas— the day we celebrate the Wise Men finally finding Jesus and presenting Him with gifts.

The Board of Early Childhood Education will meet on January 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

We will continue *Burgers for Benefits* at Fuddruckers' the third Tuesday of each month in 2025. January 21<sup>st</sup> will be our next night to go out and enjoy a meal at Fuddruckers'. You can dine in or carry out from 5:00 to 9:00pm on those evenings. Coupons are available on the display board by the door to the church office. 20% of each sale comes to Wee Disciples. Thank you for your continued support with this fundraiser!

*"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."*

Have a Blessed New Year!

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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](http://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.*



<b>Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am</b>	Group Gathering
<b>Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am</b>	Board Meeting
<b>Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> TBA</b>	Lenten Brunch
<b>June 26-29, 2025</b> Omaha, NE	National LWML Convention
<b>April 24-26, 2026</b> Lewistown, MT	District LWML Convention

**Thank you** so much for your generosity! We were able to take a sizable donation of baby wipes, diapers, formula/food and tissues to Toby's House. They were very appreciative of our gifts.



Our Advent Brunch was well-attended by many ladies from Peace (Great Falls), Zion (Power), Trinity, and a few other guests. We hosted 34 ladies and girls who heard about Jesus, our Savior, from His mother Mary's perspective and discussed our seasons of life. Each table was beautifully decorated as one of the four seasons plus Christmas. We sang a few hymns and had lots of yummy goodies. Thanks to everyone who helped prepare decorations and food!



**Thanks again** for supporting our Cookie Walk! We were able to raise \$801. 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!* Registration opens in March. Please ask Sylvia or Amy for more information. We would love to have several people from Trinity attend these wonderful events!



**Save the Dates:** We will have our Lenten Brunch here at Trinity on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Our next Montana District LWML Convention will be April 24-26, 2026 in Lewistown. What joyful times ahead!

Our next Group Gathering will be on **Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am**. We will be selecting our 2025 mission grants and conducting other business. The board will meet on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am.

**Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible study** ~ Trinity Ladies' Bible study group meets every Wednesday morning in the Stahlecker Room beginning at 9:30am. In January, we will be studying the Apostle's' Creed. On January 8<sup>th</sup>, the title of the study will be *Steadfast in Faith First Article Blessings*; on January 15<sup>th</sup>, the title of the study will be *Christ's Steadfastness: The Apostle's Creed—Second Article*; and on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, the title of the study will be *The Third Article—Steadfast in Christ: Gift of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament*. The study following these 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.

God's blessings as we begin another year in His grace. A new year inspires many people to try new health regimens with exercise, foods, and intellectual pursuits. These are all very admirable. Besides improving these worthwhile endeavors, join me in some spiritual growth via our church library. Books on a variety of topics are waiting to enrich your spiritual life. Devotionals, biographies, Bible commentaries, Christian parenting, as well as fiction are ready for check out. Take the challenge!

**The Friday Ladies Bible study** ~ During the month of January, Friday Ladies Bible study is in recess. They will have a little more time to spend with a library book...

**Assisted Living Ministry** ~ The Assisted Living Ministry will bring hymn singing and a devotion on **Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> from 1:30-2:30pm** to *Highgate Senior Living*, 3000 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. Before the Highgate event there will be a **no host lunch at 11:45am** at *Best Wok*, 1800 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.

Pastor Reinke will hold worship services at *The Lodge*, 1801 9<sup>th</sup> St. S. on **Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm**. He will conduct worship at *Highgate Senior Living*, 3000 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. on **Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm**. Don't miss the opportunity to share God's love and spiritual growth with these residents!

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.



### **COMPARISON OF GIVING REPORT ~ 2024**

For the period November 24<sup>th</sup> through December 22<sup>nd</sup>



November 24 <sup>th</sup>	\$2,169
November 28 <sup>th</sup> (Thanksgiving Day)	\$1,200
December 1 <sup>st</sup>	\$5,680
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	\$3,942
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	\$5,090
December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	\$3,331
Vanco	\$2,025

**Actual giving for report period: \$23,437**

Roof Repair Fund –through 12/22/2024 \$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](http://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) were issued Wednesday, December 18, 2024.

**Please destroy any remaining 2024 blue offering envelopes. Begin using the GREEN offering envelopes SUNDAY, January 5, 2025.**

### *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 support of these missionaries at [lcms.org](http://lcms.org)

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**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](mailto:mission.giving@lcms.org).



**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.

**Congregational Church “UN-decorating” Party** ~ **Sunday, January 5, 2025**, will be the last Sunday before Epiphany. As such we will be “un-decorating” the church and putting all our beautiful Christmas decoration safely away for another year. EVERYONE is invited to come to help put ornaments away, take trees down and clean things up. We will gather in the Sanctuary following Fellowship time and we will have lunch for everyone who is there to help.

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**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** Logan & Emily Stene  
Sam & Alyssa Birkett  
**LWML** Sylvia Adams, Myrna Philipp  
Sherri VanVleet, Amy Schultz  
**Board of Early Childhood Education**  
Myrna Philipp  
LaVelle VanVoast, Reverend Jonathan Schultz,  
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



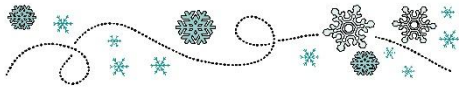
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***To all the people who volunteered in 2024;***

*everyone who helped with the cookies and coffee after church each Sunday;*  
*those who came out to help clean the church;*  
*those who helped out in the office throughout the year;*  
*the many who helped decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas;*  
*everyone who helped setup, serve and cleanup for funerals;*  
*the counters, A/V crew, and the choirs for making our worship so special;*

***You are all so very appreciated! Thank You!!***

# Worship Assistants



# JANUARY



## Serving this Month

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

**Ushers** ~ Alan Wegner / Elders

## Mid-week Services

January 8 <sup>th</sup>	Duty Elder	Shawn Shaw
January 15 <sup>th</sup>	Duty Elder	Martin Bauer
January 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Duty Elder	Bill Sybrant
January 29 <sup>th</sup>	Duty Elder	Ron VanVoast

## January 5, 2025 ~ Second Sunday after Christmas (white)

Duty Elders	Scott Broberg / Shawn Shaw
Audio/Video	Isaac Schultz
Organist	NOA
Acolytes	Harper Lautenschlager / Tracy Miesmer
Counters	Ron VanVoast

## January 12, 2025 ~ The Baptism of Our Lord (white)

Duty Elders	Len Koelbel / Bill Sybrant
Audio/Video	Gloria Creek
Acolytes	Alex Shabaan / Meredith Tabbert
Counters	Scott Broberg



## January 19, 2025 ~ Second Sunday after the Epiphany (green)

Duty Elders	Martin Bauer / Ron VanVoast
Audio/Video	Cheryl Bauer
Organist	NOA
Acolytes	Caitee Miesmer / Samuel Schultz
Counters	Alan & Denise Wegner

## January 26, 2025 ~ Third Sunday after the Epiphany (green)

Duty Elders	Len Koelbel / Shawn Shaw
Audio/Video	Josh Schultz
Organist	NOA
Acolytes	Gabriel Shabaan / Mason Voegel
Counters	Scott Broberg

*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>January 1<sup>st</sup> Harper Lautenschlager</p> <p>January 4<sup>th</sup> Alex Shabaan</p> <p>January 5<sup>th</sup> Sheldon Burkstrand Bill Sybrant</p> <p>January 9<sup>th</sup> Marlyn Gersack</p> <p>January 10<sup>th</sup> <b>Anita Erickson (80+)</b></p> <p>January 12<sup>th</sup> Kathleen Redenbaugh Clarissa Shaffer</p> <p>January 13<sup>th</sup> Gerda Broberg Joseph Nommensen</p>		<p>January 15<sup>th</sup> Sandra Baranko</p> <p>January 19<sup>th</sup> Lucy Hall</p> <p>January 20<sup>th</sup> Martin Bauer Anita Chapman <b>Chuck Lively (80+)</b></p> <p>January 21<sup>st</sup> Hayden Houle Blaise Wegner Seth Wheeler Sam Chapman James Neumann Lauralyn Fairbanks</p>
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<p>January 1<sup>st</sup> (17)</p> <p>January 2<sup>nd</sup></p> <p>January 21<sup>st</sup></p> <p>January 24<sup>th</sup></p> <p>January 25<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>James ♥ Ashlee Graves</p> <p>Gary ♥ Mary Somerfeld (43)</p> <p>Robert ♥ Bobbie Voegel (19)</p> <p>Mason ♥ Courtney Walker (22)</p> <p>Mel ♥ Ruby Willey (52)</p>
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<p>January 1<sup>st</sup> Mike Grams, Debbie Lee Randi Meehan, Joy Suek, Sherri VanVleet</p> <p>January 3<sup>rd</sup> Penny Hill, Courtney Schroeder</p> <p>January 4<sup>th</sup> Shayna Kellogg</p> <p>January 5<sup>th</sup> Dennis Philipp</p> <p>January 7<sup>th</sup> Juanita Winter</p> <p>January 8<sup>th</sup> Sean Ginnaty</p> <p>January 10<sup>th</sup> Emily Stene</p> <p>January 13<sup>th</sup> Harper Lautenschlager Axton &amp; Parker Mansch, Serenity Miesmer</p>		<p>January 14<sup>th</sup> Ed VanVleet</p> <p>January 15<sup>th</sup> Baylie Isakson, BlaykLinn Isakson</p> <p>January 17<sup>th</sup> Jon Chapman</p> <p>January 18<sup>th</sup> George Pence</p> <p>January 19<sup>th</sup> Samarah Hill</p> <p>January 22<sup>nd</sup> Gerda Broberg</p> <p>January 24<sup>th</sup> Kolter Legg</p> <p>January 25<sup>th</sup> Ada Burkstrand</p> <p>January 26<sup>th</sup> Aaron Neumann, Pam Nommensen</p> <p>January 30<sup>th</sup> Alex Shabaan</p>
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<p>January 1<sup>st</sup></p> <p>January 14<sup>th</sup></p> <p>January 15<sup>th</sup></p> <p>January 18<sup>th</sup></p> <p>January 27<sup>th</sup></p> <p>January 28<sup>th</sup></p>		<p>Arlene Andersen, Wendy Doll, Mike Grams Alice Schuman, Henry Schuman, Joy Suek Chris Legg</p> <p>Baylie Isakson, JC Isakson</p> <p>George Pence, Jamie Wheeler, Seth Wheeler</p> <p>Tonya Wandke</p> <p>Sean Ginnaty</p>
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