



Trinity Lutheran Church

Proclaiming, Teaching and Living the Gospel of Christ!

WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 8:30am

*Holy Communion is
celebrated weekly on
Saturday & Sunday*

**Sunday School &
High School Bible Study
Sundays at 9:30am**

Sat. Adult Bible Study 4:00pm
Sun. Adult Bible Study 9:45am

A Prayer on Thanksgiving Day

*God of the harvest,
You create and supply for
all our needs of body and
soul. For those who travel
on this day, give them
safety. For those family
and friends who gather,
give them peace. We come
in thanksgiving of Your
earthly provision that
nurtures the body and Your
heavenly gifts that hold the
soul steadfast until eternal
life. For this and more, we
thank You, Father, Son and
Holy Spirit.*

Amen.



*Concordia Publishing House
Portals of Prayer
Oct.-Dec., 2026
Page 108*

November 2026 - Newsletter

Fall Back

Daylight Savings Time ends November 1st. Set clocks back one hour Sunday, November 1st at 2:00am.



Pumpkin Bowling Returns for the Trini-Teens!



A favorite last year, the Trini-Teens will once again be going pumpkin bowling in the church parking lot on Friday, November 6th. Join us at 5:30pm for devotions and delightful gourd destruction!



Thanksgiving Day

A worship service will be held Thanksgiving day, Thursday, November 28th at 9:00am.

Sunday School News

Christmas Program Music Rehearsal begins Sunday, November 15th during the opening of Sunday school. If any children are interested in a musical solo please let Lynne Noffke, Heather Meredith, or Heather Thurston know.

Voters' Meeting Election Results

Congratulations to our new officers elected at the October 18th Voters' Meeting. They will begin their terms January 1, 2027.

Elders: Brian Noffke; Bill Orr; Dale Simmons
Board of Education: Rachel Grace; Michelle Hinich

Special thanks to our outgoing officers for their faithful service.

Elders: Gerald Brutlag; Ken Taube; John Varvel
Board of Education: Emma Kruse; Lynne Noffke

255 E. Third Street, P.O. Box 414 Herscher, IL 60941

Phone: 815-426-2262

Web site: trinitylutheranherscher.org Email: trinityherl@comcast.net

Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/trinityherscher

Redemption – Not Just a Clean Slate

As we finish up considering the 2nd article of the Creed, we get a striking statement. Jesus has won me from sin and death, why? “That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.” This is a wonderful, comforting truth that as Christians we can sometimes accidentally skirt past because of what I will call the “clean slate” image.



Those of you who are old enough to remember blackboards in school remember the work it actually took to get the chalk off of them. It may have been a classroom chore you got assigned – but when it was done, the chalkboard was clean. This became one of the common images for forgiveness – that Jesus removes the messiness of my sin via forgiveness. The slate is wiped clean.

It's a good image for forgiveness, but all analogies only go so far. It doesn't get the point of why the blackboard is to be cleaned. It's not so that it stays empty; it's so that the teacher can actually teach that day's lesson. Let the doodles be gone, let little Billy's wrong answers from yesterday be wiped away and forgotten – and now, let's see the Teacher bring everything new into the Classroom today.

When Jesus forgives you and rescues you from sin, He doesn't just then leave you on your own. There is a purpose, a point to what Jesus is doing. It's not just that you are forgiven, it is that you are brought into relationship with Him. You're part of His kingdom now. He's going to be in charge of your life – and that's actually good for you. He is going to take that dirty chalkboard that had been filled with mistakes and errors and whatever vulgar scribble people had drawn, and instead, it will be used for good. It will be innocent and pure and right answers. It's not that it will just be empty – it will be wonderful.

That's what our lives are now. We get put to use... and as we are sinners in a sinful world, things aren't as pristine or wondrous as they should be, so things get cleaned again, but then it's back to work, serving God by serving the neighbor – but the day is coming. There will be a day when we are raised from the dead “Just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity” - and then, it's nothing but righteousness and innocence and blessedness. Jesus wins you forgiveness so that you actually get to enjoy everlasting life with Him and with all the saints of God. You aren't just a blank slate – Jesus is going to make you an eternal masterpiece.

Pastor Brown

Christian Education Schedule

Sunday School Pre-K—8th grade Meet in the front of the church for the opening at 9:30am.

High School Bible Study is held on Sundays at 9:30am. Meet in the youth room in the basement.

Sunday Adult Bible Study is held Sundays at approximately 9:45am after Sunday worship and the Sunday School opening. We are currently studying the *book of Galatians*.

Saturday Adult Bible Study is held Saturdays at 4:00pm before the worship service. We are currently studying the *book of James*.

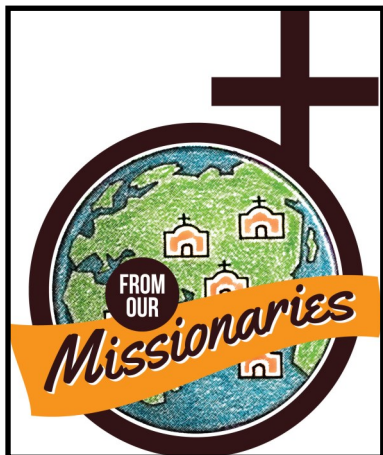
Facebook Live devotions are held online most weeks, Monday through Thursday at 8:00am.

Confirmation Class meets Sundays at 10:30am.

Be in the Word!
It's a great place to be!
All are welcome.

Missionaries

Please continue to pray for our missionaries Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump and their family as they continue to share God's love and spread His Word in Africa. A new postcard from Pastor Trump is posted on the kiosk bulletin board.



Weekly Bulletin Deadline

Items for the weekly bulletin are due in the church office each **Wednesday by noon**. Thank you!

Monthly Newsletter Deadline

Articles, announcements and information for the November newsletter are due **Friday, November 20th by 9:00am**. Thank you!



Pastoral Care Contacts

Pastor Brown often roams around in his duties, but he will be happy to meet with you. Please call, text or email to set up a time.

Pastor's Email: pastorbrown.trinity@comcast.net
Pastor's Cell phone (call or text): 815-953-9995
Pastor's Office phone: 815-426-2262 x102

Diane Hart will continue to be in the office as often as needed. Phone messages and email are checked multiple times daily.

Diane's Email: trinityherl@comcast.net
Diane's Office phone: 815-426-2262 x101
Diane's Cell phone (call or text): 708-307-2710

Parish Hall Rental/ Property Check-Out List

The Parish Hall may be rented to Trinity members for various functions. Please contact Diane in the office to schedule, remit rental fee, and obtain a copy of the guidelines. **Reminder, the kitchen, tables and chairs should be left clean and floors swept. Restrooms should be checked for tidiness.**

Also, any property borrowed (old tables, kitchen items, etc.) need to be signed out on the check-out sheet in the church office. Please note, per the Church Council, the white tables and chairs may not leave the church property. **Also, all items used are to be returned clean and stored appropriately.**

Villas at Herscher Services

Worship services are planned for Villas at Herscher Mondays, November 9th & 23rd at 3:00pm.

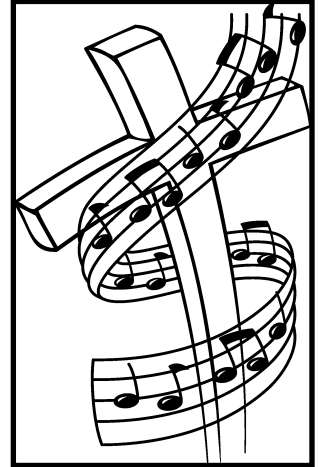


2026 Lectures in Church Music Conference Debrief

This past month, I attended the annual "Lectures in Church Music" conference at Concordia University - Chicago. Here are some highlights from the sessions I chose to attend:

Handbells for Small Ensembles

Did you know there is handbell music written for as few as four ringers? Anne Krentz Organ (yes, that IS her actual last name!) took us through a fun sight-playing session of her new book set *Four By Four*, a series of sacred handbell music written for 4, 6, or 8 ringers. The playing session also included pieces by other arrangers for the same low number of players.



Training Up the Next Generation: Beginning Organists in the Parish

This session hit really close to home! Emily Woock, professor of Organ at CUC and DPM program director introduced us to a variety of resources for beginning to intermediate level organists serving their congregations. In light of the increasing organist shortage throughout all church denominations, congregations of all sizes are having to call upon inexperienced musicians to take the bench and learn to play for services. While we pray that God would help these congregations find full-time musicians, we rejoice that so many answer the call to step up and take on the daunting task of learning this instrument for the sole purpose of serving their home churches! Not surprising, I took the most away from this session and came home with several new books to use for hymn and liturgy playing.

Nurturing the Maturing Voice

This session was aimed at vocal choir directors with aging singers, identifying vocal changes and helpful responses in order to enable support for choristers experiencing the vocal changes that accompany aging. This workshop explored characteristics of the maturing voice, challenges and gifts, and helpful conducting techniques that promote healthy singing, breath management, and tonal stability.

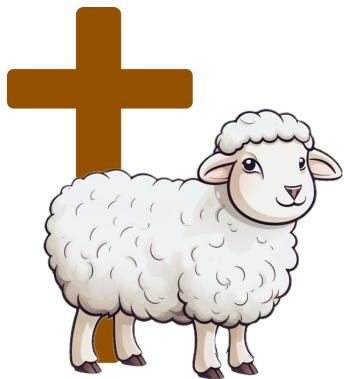
Online DCM Program Start!

I am underway in my first CUW course for the Director of Church Ministries (DCM) certification program. I will be giving regular updates to the congregation as I work my way through these courses!

-- Caleb Dehning

Little Lambs Preschool

It is easy to get lost in the preparations for Christmas. I think this is true for everyone— particularly with Thanksgiving beforehand— but it is especially true at preschool. November is so busy: we're learning the new songs students will perform next month for their families, starting Christmas crafts and gifts, and covering our regular secular and religious curricula. Cold and flu season ramps up as well, leading to absences and the resultant catching up on those projects that need to be finished before the last week of school in December. It can take some effort to remind myself to stop, give thanks, and really think about all I have to give thanks for.



First and foremost, I am grateful we exist. How many churches are willing and able to support a preschool? How many communities can support a private, religious preschool? Because of this, we are also blessed to be able to teach children in the way we deem best: through play and with Christ's love front and center. Chapel and Bible lessons are as much a part of their time at Little Lambs

as the alphabet, colors, and shapes. We teach them not only to be kind to one another and show love, but why we do it. Then there's all the joy that comes with working with children. Children are naturally full of happiness and wonderment, and they share it with us. We get to see their smiles as they pretend to run away from alligators on the playground, rock baby Moses and place him in a basket, and load the ark full of animals. The ark in question, by the way, was handmade for the preschool, and prompts another category of thanks. It is a great blessing to look around and see all the ways the congregation supports the preschool. Many people are involved in its maintenance and upkeep; even more have found ways to supply us with all that we need, and then some.

Perhaps less obviously to anyone who doesn't work here, there's the joy that comes from working together. We're a pretty merry bunch at the preschool/church, and we try to help each other with anything we can. Ann is a master decorator and organizer, and she keeps our bulletin board supplied with student art. Alli keeps track of dates, times, and needs, looking ahead and asking the important questions. Stephanie is a multitasker extraordinaire, being in several places and doing several things seemingly at once without batting an eye. Diane manages the finances, keeps the church apprised of Little Lambs activities, and works with us on special events. Caleb joins in on many chapels, and the kids love to hear him play the organ as they go to and from recess. Pastor Brown brings his characteristic humor and a pot of coffee. When one of us needs the skills of another, someone is always willing to help. Whether it's offering to step in because someone has a sick kid (who knew having an organist with preschool experience would be so handy), or something less pressing, like troubleshooting a contact lens issue, we can always count on our colleagues to be considerate, kind, and helpful.

All these blessings far supersede the deadlines, viruses, practicing, and general stress that we may associate with November. So to the preschoolers and their families, the members of our Church Council, the congregation at large, and everyone I work with and nearby: I am grateful God has placed you all in my life. Thank you for being the fearfully and wonderfully made people that you are.

Mrs. Brown

Raise Right Gift/Shopping Card Program

Trinity's Gift/Shopping Card Program through Raise Right—This program is available year-round.

All orders will be placed on Mondays, allowing for delivery usually by Thursday of the same week (online orders will be submitted with the paper orders). New customers please contact Diane Hart in the office for the enrollment code or with any questions. Go to raiseright.com for more information or ask for a printed list of vendors if you prefer.



Thank you for supporting Little Lambs Preschool simply by shopping!

Board of Education

The November meeting date will be announced.
Please contact Lynne Noffke with any questions.

Martha Circle Trinity Sewing/Quilting Group & LWML

Martha Circle will meet for breakfast Friday, November 6th at 8:30am at the Herscher Restaurant. Afterwards we will go to church to fill goodie boxes for our college students. ***Please bring snack items for the boxes to church before 9:30am on Friday, the 6th.***

Trinity Sewing will begin working on next year's quilts. This past year, 36% of the quilts and 40% of the school bags were sent inside the United States. With the new tracking system, we will post in the newsletter when we know where the quilts have been shipped.

Trinity Sewers welcome donations of flat sheets for backs and fabric donations for quilt tops. Thank you for your support. We plan to meet on the first Tuesday of the month, November 3rd, to work on quilt tying and binding. We may have workdays other times to work on various projects. Please check the bulletin for the schedule. Come for a fun day of getting to work with our Trinity Sewers.

Operation Christmas Child boxes were an enormous success. On the 3rd of October, 127 boxes were filled. The final count will be known in December when they are shipped. Donations were available to help fill in additional boxes and pay for the postage. Trinity Members played a big part in the success of having wow items for the children.

Church Council

The Council will meet Tuesday, November 10th at 7:00pm.

Hannah Circle

A new crop of Priester's Pecans will be shipped in early November! This fundraiser will help aid our missions and ministries. We will be selling them before and after church mid-November. Whether you purchase them for munching, baking or gift giving, we appreciate your support!

We'll meet Tuesday, November 17th at 6:30pm in Trinity's Parish Hall. Celia Brown will serve as hostess. Please read ahead chapter eight: Mary, the Mother of Jesus and Mary Magdalene from THE WOMEN OF THE BIBLE SPEAK.

November Card Care: Diane Hart

Herscher Council of Churches

Herscher Christian Church will distribute food boxes from the Illinois Food Bank on Tuesday, November 10th beginning at 10:00am.

Herscher United Methodist Church will be distributing Holiday Food Baskets on Saturday, November 21st from 9:00-10:00am. If you are in need of a basket, please call County West Market at 815-421-4007 by Wednesday, November 18th before 5pm. You must live within the Herscher school district, and we ask that you call in and pick up your own basket if possible. You will receive a food voucher to County West Market along with donated canned goods. State Bank of Herscher is partnering with us to collect canned fruits and vegetables inside the lobby of both the Herscher and Limestone branches. Collections will take place November 1st-18th. Part of our VBS food donations will also be added to these baskets.

St. Margaret Mary will host our annual Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 22nd at 7:00pm. The donations offered at this service are our major source of income to support our food ministry. A community choir will perform, and refreshments will be served afterward. We thank you for your support and hope you will attend!

Dartball—Monday Nights

Dartball games begin in November. Schedules are on the counter in the Parish Hall. See Brian Noffke or Karl Kruse with any questions.

Practice will be held November 2nd, 16th & 30th. Games will be held November 9th, Trinity 1 at Zion Lutheran 1, Trinity 2 at home vs. Emmanuel and November 23rd, Trinity 1 at home vs. Tri-Parish, Trinity 2 at Zion Lutheran 2.

Redeeming Life
Maternity &
Transition Homes

**Redeeming Life is
More Than A...
Meal**

At Redeeming Life, we help our residents build confidence, independence, and healthy habits by teaching how to prepare and plan for their meals.

Meal Planning	Smart Shopping	Meal Prep Skills	Time & Budget Management
Creating weekly meal plans that fit their budget and lifestyle	Learning how to shop with a list, compare prices, and make healthy choices.	Building confidence in the kitchen with easy, nutritious, and cost-effective meals.	Stretching resources, reducing waste, and preparing ahead for success.

We're preparing more than meals - we're preparing moms for a bright future!

At Redeeming Life, we believe a meal can be about so much more than what's on the plate.

Our Residents are learning practical skills that help prepare them for life beyond our homes—from planning meals and shopping on a budget to preparing nutritious meals and managing their time and resources.

We're not just teaching our Residents how to make a meal. We're helping them build confidence, independence, and skills for a brighter future.

Member Birthdays



- 2 Misty Gaus, Ethel Jordan
- 4 Chuck Baker, Ethan Covarrubia,
Michael Suess, Tiffany Zirkle
- 5 Bianca Berns
- 6 Jessica Hanson, Nicole Collins
- 8 Layla Mercer
- 9 Tonya Gross, Chris Knobloch
- 10 Braylee Hanson
- 11 Logan Harrod, Breanna Varvel
- 12 Stanley Schwark
- 13 Sharon Shelby, Cindy Witheft
- 14 Dominic Hendrix
- 17 Carter Schwark, Luke Shute
- 19 Tiffany Emery, Cristin Kersten
- 20 David Malone, Kenneth Royal,
Linda Winterroth
- 22 Oliver Bruner, Breanna Ewald, Diane Hart
Tammy Ramsey
- 23 Elizabeth Fortado, Jay Grace
- 24 David Hull, Nikky Shute
- 25 Quincie Taylor Zirkle, Kristin Winterroth
- 27 Marsha Kerschke, Kim Weerts
- 29 Sandra Anderson, Christopher Mau
- 30 Edith Schwark

Please notify Diane in the church office if there are any errors or omissions. Thank you!

A Prayer on Your Birthday

Dear Jesus, today I give You thanks and praise for Your gracious care during the past year. Now, as I remember and celebrate my birthday, I ask Your blessing for the coming year. Help me grow in grace and faith and to follow faithfully in Your footsteps in the days to come. Jesus, I want to love others as You love me, giving myself in service as You gave Yourself for us all. Amen.

*Concordia Publishing House
Portals of Prayer
Oct.-Dec., 2026, pg 113*

Trinity Lutheran Church September 30, 2026 Financial Summary

General

Beg. Balance	\$15,113.50
Revenues	18,256.26
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>25,271.64</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 8,098.12

Mission Fund

Beg. Balance	\$ 8,280.00
Revenues	1,295.00
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>9,000.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 575.00

Little Lambs Preschool

Beg. Balance	\$ 2,292.27
Revenues	12,901.87
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>4,778.05</u>
Ending Balance	\$10,416.09

Complete financial reports are reported at Quarterly Voters' Meetings held usually on the third Sundays of January, April, July and October.

Please contact Diane in the church office if you need to pick up your offering envelopes, have them issued, or wish to be removed from the offering envelope list.



Online Giving

There are numerous ways to access online giving. Type in this secure link:
<https://onrealm.org/TrinityLutheran76917/give/now>
No login is required. The link is also found on our website at trinitylutheranherscher.org and on the Universal Church Photo Directory App. You may also scan this QR code, or text "TRINITYHERSCHER" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.



(This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply. Privacy Policy - <https://help.acst.com/en/trust-center/policies/privacy-policy> Terms of Service - <https://help.acst.com/en/trust-center/policies/terms-of-service>)

If you have questions relating to Online Giving for Trinity, please feel free to contact Diane in the church office.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship

Newsletter article – November

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.



Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most Holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's Holy Word, as a sacrifice. Thus all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies and share with our family, neighbors and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by our holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus we place all that we have into God's hands. He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving celebrations, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.

Serving Our Lord This Month — November 2026

Elder/Communion Assistant

October 31*	Stan Schwark
November 01*	John Varvel
November 07*	<i>Available</i>
November 08*	Mike Bruner
November 14*	Jerry Brutlag
November 15*	Chris Knobloch
November 21*	John Varvel
November 22*	Jeremy Thurston
November 28*	Stan Schwark
November 29*	Dan Shute

*Denotes Holy Communion Served

USHERS

THIS MONTH

Usher Captains

Van Schwark (Sat.)

Bill Orr (Sun.)

Usher Team

Adam Crane; Kevin Peterson

Al Janssen; Chip Thurston;
Deb Weerts; Kim Weerts



Pam Matern
&
Brian Noffke

Altar Flowers

Oct. 31/Nov. 01	Karyn's Floral in thankfulness to Trinity for their business
November 07/08	Pam Matern
November 14/15	<i>Available</i>
November 21/22	Joe & Diane Hart on the occasions of Luke's, Diane's & Nikky' birthdays
November 28/29	Dan & Nikky Shute on the occasion of their 11th anniversary



Trinity— November 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Daylight Savings Ends 2:00am Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Adult Bible Study 9:45am Confirmation 10:30am	2 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Dartball Practice 7:00pm	3 No School Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Quilt Tying/ Sewing Group 10:30am-3:00pm	4 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Handbell Choir 6:00pm Vocal Choir 7:00pm	5 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	6 Martha Circle 8:30am @ Herscher Restaurant then pack College/Service boxes Trini-Teens Pumpkin Bowling 5:30pm	7 Communion Adult Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm
8 Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Adult Bible Study 9:45am Confirmation 10:30am	9 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Worship Service @ Villas 3:00pm Dartball Games 7:00pm Trinity 1 @ Zion 1; Trinity 2 @ home	10 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Circuit Winkel @ St.Paul, Kankakee 9:30am Council 7:00pm	11 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Handbell Choir 6:00pm Vocal Choir 7:00pm	12 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	13	14 Communion Adult Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm
15 Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Adult Bible Study 9:45am Confirmation 10:30am	16 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Dartball Practice 7:00pm	17 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Hannah Circle @ Trinity 6:30pm	18 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Handbell Choir 6:00pm Vocal Choir 7:00pm	19 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Circuit Visitors at Concordia, Chicago	20 December Newsletter Deadline 9:00am	21 Communion Adult Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm
22 Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Adult Bible Study 9:45am Confirmation 10:30am 4-H 4-7pm Community Thanksgiving @ St. Margaret Mary 7:00pm	23 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Worship Service @ Villas 3:00pm Dartball Games 7:00pm Trinity 1 @ home; Trinity 2 @ Zion 2	24 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	25 No School Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Handbell Choir 6:00pm Vocal Choir 7:00pm	26 Thanksgiving Day No School Worship 9:00am 	27 No School	28 Communion Adult Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm
29 Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Adult Bible Study 9:45am Confirmation 10:30am	30 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Dartball Practice 7:00pm					

**Deadlines for printing: Bulletin announcement deadline-Wednesdays 12:00pm
December Newsletter deadline-Friday, November 20th by 9:00am**