

From the Pastor's Pen



"I AM SO TIRED OF WAITING,
AREN'T YOU,
FOR THE WORLD TO BECOME GOOD
AND BEAUTIFUL AND KIND?
LET US TAKE A KNIFE
AND CUT THE WORLD IN TWO -
AND SEE WHAT WORMS ARE EATING
AT THE RIND."
- LANGSTON HUGHES -

Dear Trinity Family,

I have always found it helpful to think of the Lenten season as a journey. Mirroring Jesus' time in the wilderness, we devote forty days to self-examination, contemplation, and transformation. We get an early start to our Lenten journey this year, as Ash Wednesday falls on February 18th. Lent is a time for us to take a close look at ourselves, as individuals and as a community, and to identify the things that might be preventing us from fully living as God's people, and then to make changes to our practices and habits to help us grow and flourish. This is challenging work, but critical to a life of faith.

In his life and ministry, Jesus demonstrated qualities like healing, forgiveness, mercy, and compassion. Take a look around. In our world today, it is often difficult to see these values and characteristics Jesus modeled for us. Where have they gone? How have we become so divided, callous, even cruel? Beginning on Ash Wednesday, we will be reading a book called *Good and Beautiful and Kind* by Rich Villodas. In this book, Villodas offers "a compelling vision of wholeness for broken lives and a fractured world." With this book as a guide, we will journey together this Lent to (re)discover and develop these traits in our own lives, and in our life together as a faith community.

We would love for you to read along with your Trinity family throughout Lent. Then in worship on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm we will devote some time to deeper reflection. If you would like further discussion, we will have a book study group on Wednesday evenings (2/25–3/25) right after worship at approximately 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. In order to save on shipping costs, Trinity will be submitting a bulk order of these books at \$18 per book. To reserve your copy, and to sign up for the book study, please complete the form at this [link](#) or let us know in the office by 2/9.

As people of faith, our hope is always that God is not done with us. We keep stepping out in faith, trusting that the God is always doing a new thing ... that the Holy Spirit is continually working in us to form us into the people God created us to be. I hope you will join us on this journey of learning, growth, and connection this Lent.

God's Peace.

Pastor Steve

Unapproved January Council Meeting Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church
Church Council meeting
Tuesday, January 13, 2026
8:00 p.m.

President Kurt Christiansen led the Council members in reciting Trinity's mission statement, "Sharing God's word. Doing God's work."

Voting members present: Pastor Steven Lindley, President Kurt Christiansen, Vice-president Virginia Lemme, Past president Tom Farrell (via telephone), Secretary Nancy Sabbe, Eric Anderson—Board of Trustees, Dani Ruhd—Board of Faith Formation, Patti Weber—Board of Trustees

Voting members absent: Deacon Koren Lindley

Non-voting members present: Darrel Presuhn

President Kurt Christian called the meeting to order.

Vice-president Virginia Lemme gave the devotion from 2nd Peter. Believers have a faith like the apostles because we get our faith from Jesus just as they did.

Past-president Tom Farrell led the opening prayer.

Motion by Patti Weber, seconded by Past president Tom Farrell, to amend the agenda to include the report of the Nominating Committee under New Business. Motion carried. Motion by Patti Weber to approve the amended agenda. Motion seconded by Dani Ruhd. Motion carried.

Motion by Eric Anderson, seconded by Patti Weber, to accept the minutes of the December 9, 2025 Council meeting as printed. Motion carried.

Motion by Vice-president Virginia Lemme, seconded by Patti Weber to correct the minutes of the special meeting, December 15, 2025, as follows: under Old Business—Consideration of the 2026 Mission Plan—change the final sentence in section c to read "Pastor Steven Lindley and Deacon Koren Lindley were not present for the vote on the 2026 Mission Plan and the business following. They were inadvertently not called back to the meeting." Motion carried. Motion by Tom Farrell, seconded by Dani Ruhd, to approve the amended minutes. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Yearly to date statistics include general offering totaling \$354,469.06 and expenses totaling \$416,452.63. \$57,384.11 of the Hannemann Fund will be needed to balance the 2025 Mission Plan. Motion by Patti Weber, seconded by Dani Ruhd, to acknowledge the Financial Report. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Pastor Steven Lindley submitted a written report. He added that he will not have a visitation week in January. He will resume the monthly visitation week in February.

Deacon Koren Lindley submitted a written report.

President Kurt Christiansen reported

- He thanked the members for their service for the past year.
- He reported that there is a crack in a window in the sacristy. Pastor Steven Lindley added that he noticed a crack in one of the stained glass windows.

Vice-President Virginia Lemme reported

- The menu for the annual meeting is set, and the necessary supplies are in place.

Board of Trustees—Eric Anderson reported

- Office Peeps delivered 40 new padded chairs and 10 new padded arm chairs for the Fellowship Hall. The total cost was \$4,485.88 which was covered by a grant from the Trinity Foundation.
- There was a boiler issue that Sid Gulbranson resolved.
- An \$8,000 donation has been received for replacing the flooring in the offices. Kolorworks will provide cost estimates.
- They plan to replace the window in the southwest corner of the building with cement board painted to match the brick.

Board of Faith Formation—Dani Ruhd reported

- Plans for Bingo Bash on February 1 are progressing.
- Thanks to everyone from her and from Walker.

Unapproved January Council Meeting Minutes

Board of Deacons—Patti Weber reported

- The *Holden Evening Prayer* will be used for Lenten services.
- The Easter Sunrise Service might not be led by the youth this year.
- She has met with Tonia Meadows, and is making the preparations for Lenten soup suppers. February coffee letters are ready to go.
- The Deacons will have to set the Mission of the Month schedule at their next meeting. They will be concentrating on local recipients for the Jingle Change offering.
- An additional fee of \$49 per month for the new website raised many questions, but no answers yet.
- Vice-president Virginia Lemme has ordered table clothes for the long tables in the Fellowship Hall.

TEAM BUILDING

Council members were asked to think about the past year and share what was a pleasant surprise for them. They were also asked to share something that disappointed or upset them. Responses included being pleasantly surprised by the generosity of the congregation, being impressed by the faith statements of the confirmants, being surprised by how often they have been thanked for their service, and this being the first year for the office of Past President, they were surprised at the extent of the contributions provided by this office. Disappointments included Trinity's financial position, and wondering why members leave this congregation. Pastor Steven Lindley closed the discussion with a reminder that God redeems bad things though the ways we respond to them.

Membership Information

Is your info. up-to-date?

Have you moved? Did you disconnect your landline? Did you change your e-mail address? Did you get married? Did you have a baby? Did you get a divorce? Do you wonder why the church has not been connecting with you? Please notify the church office when you have an address change, e-mail change, marital status change, etc. or update the information on your Realm account.

OLD BUSINESS

The annual meeting with lunch provided will be held in the Fellowship Hall following the Celebration Service on Sunday, January 18, 2026.

The Council Retreat will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at the Depot from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

NEW BUSINESS

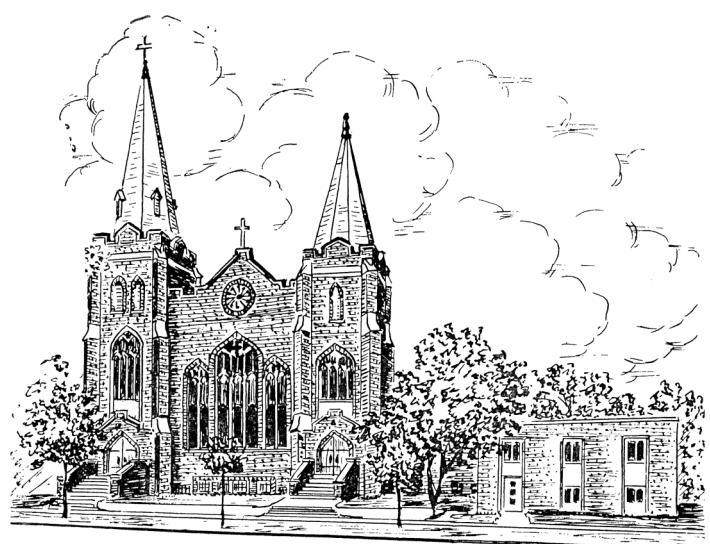
Vice-president Virginia Lemme presented the report of the Nominating Committee which will appear in the annual report. Motion by Patti Weber, seconded by Past president Tom Farrell, to acknowledge the report. Motion carried.

President Kurt Christiansen thanked everyone for their work over the past year.

Patti Weber moved for adjournment. Motion seconded by Dani Ruhd. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Sabbe, secretary

*Serve the
LORD
with
GLADNESS*



February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
01 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:45AM - 9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary • 9:45AM - 10:45AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall • 10:00AM - 10:50AM Sunday School : Sunday School Rooms • 11:00AM - 12:00PM Celebration Worship w/ Easton Storm Baptism : Sanctuary • 12:00PM - 1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM • 12:00PM - 3:00PM Bingo Bash : Fellowship Hall 	02 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschool Registration Opens to the Public • 7:00PM - 8:00PM Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall 	03 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:00AM - 11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM - 3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall • 6:00PM - 7:00PM Scouts Committee Meeting : Fireside Room
08 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jingle Change • 8:45AM - 9:45AM Traditional Worship w/Council & Boards Installation : Sanctuary • 9:45AM - 10:45AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall • 10:00AM - 10:50AM Sunday School : Sunday School Rooms • 11:00AM - 12:00PM Celebration Worship w/ Council & Boards Installation : Sanctuary • 12:00PM - 1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM 	09 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor's Visitation Week • 9:00AM - 7:00PM Preschool Fundraiser Sorting & Pick Up : Narthex • 7:00PM - 8:00PM Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor's Visitation Week • 10:00AM - 11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 12:00PM - 1:00PM Finance Meeting : Zoom • 1:00PM - 3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall
15 <i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor's Visitation Week • 8:45AM - 9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary • 9:45AM - 10:45AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall • 11:00AM - 12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary • 12:00PM - 1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM 	16 <i>Presidents' Day</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office Closed • No Preschool 	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30AM - 11:00AM Mary Circle : Fellowship Hall • 10:00AM - 11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office
22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:45AM - 9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary • 9:45AM - 10:00AM Usher Training : Sanctuary • 9:45AM - 10:45AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall • 10:00AM - 10:50AM Sunday School : Sunday School Rooms • 10:40AM - 10:55AM Usher Training : Sanctuary • 11:00AM - 12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary • 12:00PM - 1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00PM - 8:00PM Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:00AM - 11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM - 3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall

2026

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
04 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5:30PM - 6:15PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room ; Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary• 5:30PM - 6:30PM 6th-8th Grade Confirmation : Fellowship Hall• 7:00PM - 8:00PM HS Youth Group : Youth Room	05 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12:00PM - 1:00PM Bible Study : Fellowship Hall• 1:00PM - 3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall• 6:00PM - 7:30PM Scouts Pack 5 Meeting--Blue & Gold Banquet : Fellowship Hall• 6:00PM - 7:00PM SSL Class : Room 18	06 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6:30AM - 7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	07 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5:00PM - 6:00PM Fellowship Potluck Meal : Fellowship Hall• 6:00PM - 7:00PM Saturday Worship w/Holy Communion & Council & Boards Installation : Fellowship Hall
11 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pastor's Visitation Week• 10:00AM - 1:00PM DSU Tabling : Off Site• 5:30PM - 6:15PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room ; Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary• 5:30PM - 6:30PM 6th-8th Grade Confirmation : Fellowship Hall• 7:00PM - 8:00PM HS Youth Group : Youth Room	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pastor's Visitation Week• 12:00PM - 1:00PM Bible Study : Fellowship Hall• 1:00PM - 3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall• 6:00PM - 7:00PM SSL Class : Room 18 ; Arrow of Light & Webelo Den Meetings : Fellowship Hall• 6:30PM - 7:15PM Lions & Tigers Den Meetings : Youth Room	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pastor's Visitation Week• No Preschool-Presidents' Day Break• 6:30AM - 7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pastor's Visitation Week• 9:00AM - 10:30AM Covenant Choir Party : Fireside Room
18 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5:30PM - 6:15PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room ; Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary• 5:30PM - 6:30PM Lenten Soup Supper : Fellowship Hall• 6:30PM - 7:30PM Ash Wed. Worship : Sanctuary	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1:00PM - 3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall• 6:00PM - 7:00PM Arrow of Light & Webelo Den Meetings : Fellowship Hall ; SSL Class : Room 18	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6:30AM - 7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	21
25 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:00AM - 1:00PM DSU Tabling : Off Site• 5:30PM - 6:15PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room ; Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary• 5:30PM - 6:30PM Lenten Soup Supper : Fellowship Hall• 5:30PM - 6:00PM Adult Choir Rehearsal : Sanctuary• 6:30PM - 7:00PM Lenten Evening Prayer Worship : Sanctuary• 7:00PM - 7:45PM Lenten Book Study Group : Fellowship Hall• 7:00PM - 8:15PM Youth Bible Study : Youth Room	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1:00PM - 3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall• 6:00PM - 7:00PM SSL Class : Room 18 ; Arrow of Light & Webelo Den Meetings : Fellowship Hall• 6:30PM - 7:15PM Lions & Tigers Den Meetings : Youth Room• 6:30PM - 8:00PM Foundation Commission Meeting : Conference Room	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6:30AM - 7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	28 <p>Holy Communion on the 1st & 3rd Sundays</p> <p>Home Communion on the 3rd Sunday</p>

February Coffee Hour



The February 2026 Coffee Hour will be hosted by the Family of Faithfulness. The Family Group Leaders, Tonia Meadows and Gayle Maberry, will be contacting you. Your help is always appreciated. FYI – March 2026 Coffee Hour will be hosted by the Family of Gentleness.

Lenten Soup Suppers



Our Lenten Season will begin Ash Wednesday, February 18th, with a Soup Supper in the Fellowship Hall. The Soup Supper Family Group Leaders will be contacting you to bring soups, setup, work, and cleanup. Your help is important and so appreciated to make these Soup Suppers a special time of fellowship for our Trinity family.

2026 Soup Supper Schedule

Soup Supper	Date	Group #	Group Leaders	Family of
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2/18/2026	9	Mary Hutchinson	Self-Control
Ash Wednesday	8	Linda Nighbert	Gentleness
	1	Patti Weber	Love

2/25/2026	6	Carol Andersen	Goodness
	6	Joyce Farrell	Goodness

3/4/2026	2	Jennifer Briggs	Joy

3/11/2026	7	Tonia Meadows	Faithfulness
	7	Gayle Maberry	Faithfulness

3/18/2026	3	Beth Delzer	Peace
	3	Karen Kalvig	Peace

3/25/2026	5	Cheryl Iverson	Kindness
	5	Diane Plack	Kindness
	4	Lana Johnson	Patience
	4	Nancy Rook	Patience

NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION

January 2026 Memorials

In Memory of Donald Johnson

Marv and Sandy Rhode

In Memory of Phyllis Wise

Marv and Sandy Rhode

In Memory of Delroy Kardell

Marv and Sandy Rhode

In Memory of Barb Feige

Marv and Sandy Rhode

Mary Lingbeck

Brian Howell

Dick and Barb Ellis

Kristin and John Morse

Linda Bruns

Eldon and Teresa Saugstad

Bill and Diane Bruns

Jon and Mary Hunter

Mr. and Mrs. Benda

Kay Johnson

David and Marian Wheeler

Joyce Richter

Sherry Van Liere

Mary and Jerry Hutchinson

Dennis and Nancy Rook

Todd and Susan Williams

Arnold and Kathleen Weinman

Roger and Helen Merriman

Betty Wilbur

Sharon Johnson

Karen Feige

Carol and Gerald Petri

Thomas Melick

Sue, Jon, and Sally Olson

Dipiazza, LaRocca, Heeter, and Company

Lois Kooiman

Lyle & Stacy Olesen

Carolyn Saugstad



Thank you to Susan Williams, Karen Kalvig, Wade & Jennifer Briggs, Ron & Roberta Janke, Mark Jensen, and Karen Giles for serving Home Communion in January.



Together with Kaden Krusemark as John the Baptist and Dylan Riedel as the Narrator, the Covenant Choir presented a short skit as 'John' proclaimed Jesus as the Lamb of God.



Financial Response as of 12/31/2025

The year-to-date statistics are:

Total Income (YTD) \$354,469.06

Total Expenses (YTD) \$416,652.63

Thank you for your generous support of Trinity's mission!



203 N. Harth Ave.
Madison, SD 57042

Return Service Requested

Financial Giving Options

- Checks can be mailed to the church.
- Credit cards can be processed in the church office.
- The church website (www.tlcmadison.com) allows for one-time or recurring donations using a checking/savings account or a credit/debit card.
- The Electronic Giving option through Vanco can also be initialized by filling out an application form in the church office.
- If you should have questions with any of these options or would like to discuss which one is the best option for you, please call Alex at the church office at 605-256-2771.

Mission of the Month

The February Mission of the Month is Lutherans Outdoors of SD, a camping ministry of the SD Synod of the ELCA, operating three camps – Outlaw Ranch, Klein Ranch and Ne So Dak.

Gifts may be designated on offering envelopes/checks to Mission of the Month Fund. The Jingle Change collection on February 8 also supports the Mission of the Month.

Congregational Information

Deaths: Kendra Paulson on January 9
Barbara Feige on January 16

Baptisms: none

Weddings: none

Food Pantry

The Lake County Food Pantry mission of the month for February is pancake mix and syrup. Diapers and baby wipes are also requested.

Pastoral Care

If you are in need of pastoral care or know someone who is, please contact Pastor Steve or the church office.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH