

## Deacon's Discourse

"So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him, being rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude." ~ Colossians 2:6-7

January has a way of making us think about starting fresh. New calendars. New plans. Maybe even a little pressure to do better or be better. But winter, especially in South Dakota, has a way of slowing us down and changing our expectations.

Paul writes, *"Just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him."* I love that word "received." Our faith begins not with what we do, but with what God has already done. Grace is not something we earn by trying harder, doing better, or getting it right. It is given freely, again and again. Before we take a single step, before we make a single promise or plan, God has already claimed us and called us beloved. We don't walk in faith to earn God's love—we walk in faith because God's love has already been given. We only need to receive it.

In January, the ground is frozen. Nothing looks like it's growing. And yet, beneath the surface, roots are doing important work—stretching deeper, finding nourishment, holding steady. That image feels especially true for faith. God is at work in us even when we don't feel particularly productive or inspired. Being rooted in Christ means we are held by something stronger than our motivation or energy.

Paul goes on to say we are *"rooted and built up in him."* That kind of growth takes time, and at Trinity it often happens in simple, faithful ways. It happens when children gather around Bible stories and songs,

when youth ask honest questions, and when adults keep showing up for worship and conversation. It happens through shared meals, serving our neighbors, praying for one another, singing together, and learning side by side across generations. None of these things earn God's love—but they are places where God is already at work, strengthening our roots and building us up together as the body of Christ.

Finally, we read this beautiful phrase: "overflowing with gratitude." Gratitude doesn't come from having everything figured out or from life going exactly as we hoped. It grows when we begin to notice where God is meeting us—in familiar routines, in shared laughter, in prayers spoken and unspoken, and even in the midst of uncertainty. Gratitude shows up when we recognize that we are sustained by grace we did not earn and carried by a community we did not create on our own. It is a quiet thankfulness that flows from being rooted in Christ, trusting that God is faithful, present, and at work among us—today and always.

So as we begin this new year, maybe the invitation isn't to rush or reinvent ourselves. Maybe it's simply to stay rooted. To trust that God is growing something good in us—often in ways we cannot yet see. Rooted in Christ. Growing in grace. Walking together into whatever this year may hold.

Deacon Koren

## 2026 Council & Board Retreat

The 2026 Council & Board Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, January 31, 2026 from 8 am to 12 pm. This year's retreat will be held at the Chamber of Commerce's Depot Room. This time is set aside for Trinity's elected leaders to gather to build relationships, to pray, to dream together what the Spirit might be up to in the upcoming year, and to learn more about each of our specific roles in our shared ministry. This replaces the regularly scheduled February council

meeting. The retreat is a vital time, as we begin our work together for the year, so we ask that if at all possible all 2026 council and board members participate. We also request that all off-going 2025 council and board members attend the first part of the retreat to help with their successor's transition into that role. We look forward to this time together! If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Steve.

# Unapproved December Council Meeting Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Church Council Meeting  
Tuesday, December 9, 2025  
7:00 p.m.

Due to inclement weather, the December 9, 2025, meeting of the Church Council was convened on Zoom.

President Kurt Christiansen led the Council in reciting Trinity's mission statement.

Voting members present: Pastor Steven Lindley, Deacon Koren Lindley, President Kurt Christiansen, Vice-president Virginia Lemme, Past president Tom Farrell, Secretary Nancy Sabbe, Patty Weber—Board of Deacons, Eric Anderson—Board of Trustees

Voting members absent: Dani Ruhd—Board of Faith Formation

Non-voting members present: Darrel Presuhn, Marie Millage, Ben Kapelle

President Kurt Christiansen called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Vice-president Virginia Lemme conducted the devotion from Luke chapter 1, encouraging everyone to be like Mary who accepted her mission without question. Pastor Steven Lindley opened the meeting with prayer.

Pastor Steven Lindley requested that an item regarding his housing allowance be added to the agenda. Motion by Past president Tom Farrell, seconded by Vice-president Virginia Lemme, to add the housing allowance to new business. Motion carried. Motion by Past president Tom Farrell, seconded by Eric Anderson, to accept the amended agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Patti Weber, seconded by Past president Tom Farrell to approve the minutes of the November 11, 2025, Council meeting. Motion carried.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Past president Tom Farrell gave the Financial Report. The general offering received in November was \$41,883.75. Yearly to date statistics include the general offering received totaling \$299,771.08 and expenses, including the bat mitigation, totaling \$376,750.09.

Past president Tom Farrell presented a report on the status of the Hannemann Fund.

	Amount	Balance
Amount transferred to congregation	\$202,560.00	\$202,560.00
Amount tithed	(\$20,256.00)	\$182,304.00
Amount to balance 2024 Mission Plan	(\$12,063.00)	\$170,241.00
Amount projected to balance 2025 Mission Plan	(\$67,910.30)	\$102,330.70
Amount projected to balance 2026 Mission Plan	(\$78,995.00)	\$23,335.70

President Kurt Christiansen spoke to the congregation during Sunday services on December 7, 2025, bringing them up-to-date on Trinity's finances. An item on the finances will appear in the December 18 e-news.

Motion by Eric Anderson, seconded by Vice-president Virginia Lemme, to acknowledge the Financial Report. Motion carried.

## REPORTS

Pastor Steven Lindley reported:

- This is a busy time for the staff as they are planning Advent and Christmas services and preparing for the annual meeting.
- There have been no new applications for the custodian's position since October.
- Staff evaluations have been completed as of December 4, 2025.
- The Hanging of the Greens service went well. He thanked everyone who participated.
- The Board of Deacons has made arrangements for the service on Sunday, December 28.
- The High School youth continue meeting. They are using an electronic Advent calendar this month.
- The lectionary study group and the men's fellowship are not currently meeting due to low attendance.
- He reported that he had 7 visits during his second scheduled visitation week.
- There has been a marked increase in hospitalizations and health issues among Trinity members recently.

Deacon Koren Lindley submitted a written report adding that she is preparing for the Kids' Christmas service which will be presented during the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 21, 2025. The date for Bingo Bash has not been set pending the date selected for the annual meeting.

## Unapproved December Council Meeting Minutes

President Kurt Christiansen reported:

- He thanked everyone who worked on the staff evaluations.
- Thank you messages from Pastor Steven Lindley and Deacon Karen Lindley were received.
- Seven CDs (six at \$10,000 each and one at \$14,347) held at First Bank and Trust matured at the beginning of December. They have been renewed at an annual percentage rate of 3.7%.

Vice-president Virginia Lemme reported:

- Marissa Nussbaum has agreed to fill the position of Youth Ministry on the Board of Faith Formation. The Nominating Committee has nominees for all but one open position. Dick Ellis and Virginia Lemme will address the congregation on Sunday, December 14, to encourage members to consider volunteering to serve on the Council.
- The Foundation has awarded the following grants: from the Faith in Action Endowment

- \$1,000 to East Dakota Transit for Sunday transportation requested by Jim Iverson
- \$1,000 to Days for Girls for supplies requested by Arleen Weerheim
- \$750 to Gideons International for new testaments requested by Dennis Larson
- \$4,250 to the Bethel Home for a wheelchair scale requested by Jona Schmidt
- \$650 for Christmas Go Box supplies requested by Diane Bruns
- \$1,000 to Trinity Preschool for a computer and software requested by Beth Himley
- \$774 to the Trinity Altar Guild for banners requested by Lana Johnson
- \$1,099 to Faith Formation for Labyrinths requested by Deacon Karen Lindley
- \$4,250 for chairs for the Fellowship Hall requested by the Board of Trustees
- \$1,691 for bat mitigation requested by the Board of Trustees

From the Hazel Johnson Mission Endowment Fund

- \$1,737 to the Madison Food Pack requested by Scott Parsley
- Dick Ellis has agreed to serve as the congregation's treasurer.

Board of Deacons—Patti Weber reported:

- The families who will be lighting the Advent wreath candles have been scheduled as has the special music for December.

- Kids' Christmas service will be Sunday, December 21, at the 11:00 a.m. service.
- There will be one service on Sunday, December 28, at 9:30 a.m.
- A service is planned for 10:00 a.m. on Christmas Day.
- The January coffee letters are out. Patti is working with the incoming Deacon of Life and Growth to prepare for the Ash Wednesday soup supper.
- Videographers Maddie Entringer and Kaden Krusemark will be establishing a schedule for recording Sunday services.
- Trinity's 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service will be broadcast on KJAM at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve. Cost for the broadcast is \$189.00.
- The benefit of broadcasting the Sunday worship services on KJAM was discussed.
- The Board of Deacons is working on a schedule for the Mission of the Month. They are looking for local causes to support. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is the Mission of the Month for January.

Board of Trustees—Eric Anderson reported:

- Based on his experience with cellular outdoor cameras, Joel Brick does not think they are the best choice for Trinity. He is planning to speak to Mark Smith about outdoor cameras. Joel has a new DVR that he would be willing to donate to the church.
- Richard Wolf has completed the sanding and painting of the new windows in the education wing.
- The service contract with Century Business Products for the M3504 LDN printer has expired. The machine is old and parts are no longer guaranteed by the manufacturer. A representative from Century Business will be available to discuss options with the staff. In the meantime the service contract has been extended to February 4, 2026.
- The Board has chosen to purchase padded chairs without arms for the Fellowship Hall from Office Peeps at \$75 each. They may also include a few chairs with arms in this purchase. They received a \$4,250 grant from the Foundation for this purchase. The Council discussed how to dispose of the old chairs.
- Snow removal--JS Mowing LLC submitted a bid of \$245 for each instance. They would come automatically any time there is a snowfall of 2 inches

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# Unapproved December Council Meeting Minutes

or more, and may be called on a case-by-case basis at other times. More details will be determined.

There was no report from the Board of Faith Formation beyond what was included in Deacon Karen Lindley's report.

TEAM BUILDING (omitted for this meeting)

## OLD BUSINESS

President Kurt Christiansen thanked the Boards for their work in completing the proposed Mission Plan for 2026 and presented the 2026 Mission Plan for discussion. Changes to the proposed Mission Plan included adding \$2,600 for the broadcast of the Sunday Service on KJAM back into line 6140.10; change the requested amount in line 6270.12, Campership Expense, to \$1,500; change the request for Utilities, line 6340.00, to \$14,500; reduce the request for Auto Expense (Mileage), line 6410.00, to \$2,000; increase line 6820.50, Custodial Wages, to \$18,000; change anticipated general offering to \$375,000. Following additional review and discussion of the proposed 2026 Mission Plan, Past president Tom Farrell moved to table consideration of the proposed Mission Plan to 7:15 p.m. on Monday, December 15, 2025. The motion was seconded by Vice-president Virginia Lemme. Motion carried.

## NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Past president Tom Farrell, seconded by Eric Anderson, to set Sunday, January 18, 2026, as the date for the annual meeting with a snow date of Sunday, January 25. The meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Motion carried.

Past president Tom Farrell presented the following changes to the Trinity Foundation's policies:

Changes to the Hazel Johnson Mission Endowment Fund Distribution Policy: 1) Change Recipient Selection to read "The Foundation will publicize the availability of funds. Historically, \$1,200 has been designated annually to Mark Jensen, a Trinity member who works with international Bible translations. The remaining funds are awarded based on applications submitted in October and selected in November." 2) Change Distribution History to read "The Foundation will maintain a permanent record of all distributions made from this Fund."

Changes to Trinity Lutheran Church Faith in Action Endowment Distribution Policy:

1) Add "If there are insufficient requests funded for the amount of income available to be distributed, the Foundation will reinvest the unused funds, and reserves the right to consider an award at any time prior to the next annual request for proposals if a need arises." as the third paragraph of the Recipient Selection. 2) Change Distribution History to read "The Foundation will maintain a permanent record of all distributions made from this Fund."

Changes to the Edwin Hannemann Missionary Endowment Fund Distribution Policy: 1) Add the following as the third paragraph in the History of Fund: "In 2024, following the 25 years, the Foundation Commission and Trinity Lutheran Church voted to return the year's balance of \$202,558 to the Trinity Council to spend as they saw fit. The Trinity Council passed a motion to establish a Tithe of 10% of the Hannemann gift. On October 15, 2024, the Council passed a motion that the Tithe include \$12,256 to Bethel Lutheran Home, \$4,000 to the Trinity Preschool, and \$4,000 to the Trinity Foundation to return the Edwin Hannemann Fund to the threshold of \$10,000 to continue the endowment. The council action was approved by the membership of Trinity at their annual meeting on January 15, 2025." 2) Change Timing of Distributions to read "The timing of a selection of a recipient of support may vary. Distribution will be made annually, usually in the fall." 3) Change Distribution History to read "The Foundation will maintain a permanent record of all distributions made from this Fund."

Changes to the Trinity Lutheran Camp Counselor Scholarship Endowment Fund: 1) Add the following to Donor Restrictions "Distributions may be made to or on behalf of Trinity Lutheran Church members who are attending college and choose to spend their summer working full-time as a summer Bible camp counselor." 2) Change Distribution History to read "The Foundation will maintain a permanent record of all distributions made from this Fund." Motion by Eric Anderson, seconded by Vice-president Virginia Lemme, to accept the policy changes. Motion carried.

Motion by Past president Tom Farrell, seconded by Eric Anderson, to accept the Engagement Letter for Business Bookkeeping and Tax Preparation from Katie J. Nelson, CPA, Nelson Bookkeeping and Tax, LLC. Motion carried.

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## Council Minutes Continued

Pastor Steven Lindley introduced a new logo for Trinity. Courtney Storm volunteered to design the new logo with the new vision and mission statements in mind. Motion by Past president Tom Farrell, seconded by Deacon Koren Lindley, to adopt the new logo. Motion carried with the Council's thanks to Courtney Storm.

The appointment of the Audit Committee was tabled to the meeting on Monday, December 15, 2025.

The formation of a Church Policy Committee was tabled to the January 2026 Council meeting.

President Kurt Christiansen announced that the Council Retreat will be held on January 31, 2026, location to be determined. Members who will be going off the Council are encouraged to come to hand off materials to the incoming members.

Motion by Past president Tom Farrell, seconded by Eric Anderson, to approve the housing allowance requested by Pastor Steven Lindley. The request does not impact the Mission Plan. Motion carried with Pastor Steven Lindley and Deacon Koren Lindley abstaining.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Motion to adjourn made by Past president Tom Farrell and seconded by Vice-president Virginia Lemme. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Sabbe, secretary



### Financial Response as of 11/30/2025

For December, we need a general offering of \$65,000 to meet the mission plan.

The year-to-date statistics are:

Total Income (YTD) \$299,771.08

Total Expenses (YTD) \$376,750.09

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



*The Covenant Choir kids created their own Advent logs with help from Shawn Oleson and Paislee Cooney. Ron Lemme split the logs and drilled holes for the candles. "Thank you, Mr. Lemme!"*

**January**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>
Holy Communion on the 1st & 3rd Sundays Home Communion on the 3rd Sunday		
04 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary</li><li>• 9:45AM–10:45AM Coffee Hour &amp; Discussion Time : Fellowship Hall</li><li>• 11:00AM–12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary</li></ul>	05 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preschool Resumes</li><li>• 7:00PM–8:00PM Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall</li></ul>	06 <i>Epiphany of Our Lord</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office</li><li>• 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall</li><li>• 6:00PM–7:00PM Scouts Committee Meeting : Fireside Room</li></ul>
11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jingle Change</li><li>• 8:00AM–2:00PM Scouts Pancake Feed : Fellowship Hall, Kitchen</li><li>• 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary</li><li>• 10:00AM–10:50AM Sunday School : Sunday School Rooms</li><li>• 11:00AM–12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary</li></ul>	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preschool Registration Opens to Church Members</li><li>• 7:00PM–8:00PM Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall</li></ul>	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office</li><li>• 12:00PM–1:00PM Finance Meeting : Zoom</li><li>• 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall</li><li>• 6:00PM–6:45PM Board of Deacons Meeting : Fireside Room</li><li>• 7:00PM–9:00PM Council Meeting : Fellowship Hall</li></ul>
18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary</li><li>• 9:45AM–10:45AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall</li><li>• 10:00AM–10:50AM Sunday School : Sunday School Rooms</li><li>• 11:00AM–12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary</li><li>• 12:00PM–1:00PM Annual Meeting : Fellowship Hall</li></ul>	19 <i>MLK, Jr. Day</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Office Closed</li><li>• No Preschool</li></ul>	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9:30AM–11:00AM Mary Circle : Fellowship Hall</li><li>• 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office</li></ul>
25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary</li><li>• 9:45AM–10:45AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall</li><li>• 10:00AM–10:50AM Sunday School : Sunday School Rooms</li><li>• 11:00AM–12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary</li><li>• 12:00PM–1:00PM Annual Meeting Snow Date : Fellowship Hall</li></ul>	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4:00PM–9:00PM Bethel Annual Meeting : Fellowship Hall</li></ul>	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office</li><li>• 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall</li></ul>

**2026**

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
	01 <i>New Year's Day</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office Closed</li> <li>• No Preschool–New Year's Break</li> <li>• 6:30PM–7:15PM Lions &amp; Tigers Den Meetings : Youth Room</li> </ul>	02 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study</li> <li>• No Preschool–New Year's Break</li> </ul>	03 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5:00PM–6:00PM Fellowship Potluck Meal : Fellowship Hall</li> <li>• 6:00PM–7:00PM Saturday Worship w/Holy Communion : Fellowship Hall</li> </ul>
07 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Grade Confirmation : Fellowship Hall</li><li>• 5:30PM–6:15PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room ; Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary</li><li>• 6:30PM–7:00PM Adult Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room ; Chapel Choir Rehearsal : Sanctuary</li><li>• 7:00PM–8:00PM HS Youth Group : Youth Room</li></ul>	08 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12:00PM–1:00PM Bible Study : Fellowship Hall</li><li>• 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall</li><li>• 6:00PM–7:00PM Arrow of Light &amp; Webelo Den Meetings : Fellowship Hall</li></ul>	09 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study</li></ul>	10
14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10:00AM–1:00PM DSU Tabling : Off Site</li><li>• 5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Grade Confirmation : Fellowship Hall</li><li>• 5:30PM–6:15PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room ; Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary</li><li>• 6:30PM–7:00PM Chapel Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room</li><li>• 7:00PM–8:00PM HS Youth Group : Youth Room</li></ul>	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12:00PM–1:00PM Bible Study : Fellowship Hall</li><li>• 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall</li><li>• 6:00PM–7:00PM Arrow of Light &amp; Webelo Den Meetings : Fellowship Hall</li><li>• 6:30PM–7:15PM Lions &amp; Tigers Den Meetings : Youth Room</li></ul>	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study</li></ul>	17
21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5:30PM–6:15PM Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary ; Covenant Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room</li><li>• 5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Grade Confirmation : Fellowship Hall</li><li>• 6:30PM–7:00PM Chapel Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room</li><li>• 7:00PM–8:00PM HS Youth Group : Youth Room</li></ul>	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12:00PM–1:00PM Bible Study : Fellowship Hall</li><li>• 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall</li><li>• 6:00PM–7:00PM Arrow of Light &amp; Webelo Den Meetings : Fellowship Hall</li></ul>	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study</li></ul>	24
28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10:00AM–1:00PM DSU Tabling : Off Site</li><li>• 5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Grade Confirmation : Fellowship Hall</li><li>• 5:30PM–6:15PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room ; Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary</li><li>• 6:30PM–7:00PM Adult Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room ; Chapel Choir Rehearsal : Sanctuary</li><li>• 7:00PM–8:00PM HS Youth Group : Youth Room</li></ul>	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12:00PM–1:00PM Bible Study : Fellowship Hall</li><li>• 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall</li><li>• 6:00PM–7:00PM Arrow of Light &amp; Webelo Den Meetings : Fellowship Hall</li><li>• 6:30PM–7:15PM Lions &amp; Tigers Den Meetings : Youth Room</li></ul>	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study</li></ul>	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8:00AM–12:00PM Council &amp; Board Retreat : Off Site</li></ul>

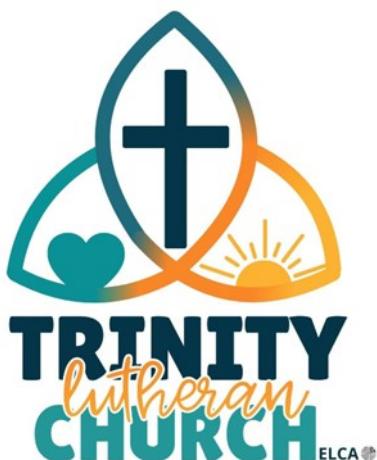
## January Coffee Hour



The January 2026 Coffee Hour will be hosted by the Family of Goodness. The Family Group Leaders, Carol Andersen and Tom & Joyce Farrell, will be contacting you. Your help is always appreciated. FYI – February 2026 Coffee Hour will be hosted by the Family of Faithfulness.

## Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 18, 12 p.m.



## Trinity's New Vision and Mission Statement and Logo

In 2025, Trinity's Vision Team devoted about six months to praying, listening, and discerning together, and crafting a new vision and mission statement to help inform and shape our shared ministry in the future. These statements do a wonderful job of expressing who we are as a faith community, why we exist, and what the Spirit is calling us into. At the council meeting on October 14, 2025, Trinity's council reviewed, discussed, and voted to approve the statements. We then asked Trinity member, Courtney Storm, to create an updated logo to correspond with this new vision. She drafted three versions of a new logo, which are bright, colorful, inviting, and meaningful. These logos were approved by the council on December 9, 2025. The new vision and mission statements, and the new logos, will be up for congregational approval at the annual meeting on Sunday, January 18, 2026 at 12 pm. The statements and logos can be found below. If you would like to learn more about the visioning process and its results, there will be an opportunity for discussion and questions during coffee hour at 10 am on Sunday, January 4. Thank you to the vision team and to Courtney for all of your amazing work in this process!

### Vision Statement - Approved by Council on 10/14/25

Trinity Lutheran Church is a community of faith brought to life by the Holy Spirit working in and through people of all walks and seasons of life - broken, beautiful, and beloved.

We belong to a Trinitarian God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bonded in perfect love, whose very essence and being is community. God became one of us in the person of Jesus, who is the light that shines in the darkness, to assure us of God's love for the whole world and to invite everyone into the life of the Trinity.

We belong to one another. Walking in the Way of Jesus enables us to become a community made in God's image, diverse and united in love, with the light of Jesus shining through us.

In worship, the sacraments, and prayer, we remember to whom we belong. In faith formation and fellowship we, as a faith community, become our truest self. In service and connection to our neighbors, we encounter, testify to, and share God's love.

### Mission Statement - Approved by Council on 10/14/25

Belonging to, growing in, and embodying the Trinity.

## NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION

Recent Memorials As Of 12/15/2025

**In Memory of Tim Schultz**

Sharol Bargmann

**In Memory of Lane Briggs**

Marv and Sandy Rhode

**In Memory of Gayla Anderson**

Marv and Sandy Rhode

**In Memory of Donna Davis**

Marv and Sandy Rhode

*"Say What?"*

The Bible includes many curious, confusing, and bizarre passages - a talking donkey, a prophet-swallowing fish, and violent bears, among others. On January 8th, our Thursday at noon Bible study group will begin meeting again, and we'll be exploring these peculiar stories. This is sure to lead to some fascinating conversations, and together we'll discover what these stories might have to teach us about God and about us, as people of faith. Bring your lunch, if you would like, and join us each Thursday at 12 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



### Thank You

Trinity Family of Faith,

We are grateful and blessed by your outpouring of support for our Operation Christmas Child GO (Gospel Opportunity) Boxes this year. Your donations for the Giving Trees, for the gifts to fill the shoeboxes and for shipping costs deserve all the gratitude we can offer.

Many hands make light of work and preparation leading up to packing day as well as packing day was proof of that. Preschool, Bible school students, Sunday school and confirmation students decorated the interiors of the boxes with beautiful pictures. High School Youth and TLC members during coffee hour folded boxes and prepped items to be bagged before packing. On November 9, packing day, we were overjoyed at the numbers who arrived to fill 378 GO boxes to the brim and load the trailer for delivery to Good Shepherd Lutheran.

An additional Thank You goes to the people who contributed to cover all our shipping costs, \$10 per box, a total of \$3780. They include Robert & Karen Appelwick, Doug & Joan Merager, Karen Kratochvil, Nancy Sabbe, Kurt and Jill Merager, and Marv and Sandy Rhode.

378 children will hear the Gospel of Jesus because of each of you. 378 children will know someone loves them enough to give them a gift. You have made 378 children smile.

Jesus is the Reason for the Season.

Diane and Bill Bruns

## Madison Food Pack

Three nonprofits join forces for a large pack of meals for those in need (**100,000 meals in one day**).

January 31st, 2026 | Madison Downtown City Armory

Churches,  
civic organizations,  
school groups,  
& businesses  
are welcome to sign up  
groups for one, two,  
or all three shifts.  
Individuals are welcome  
to sign up too.

### THREE SHIFTS

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. &  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

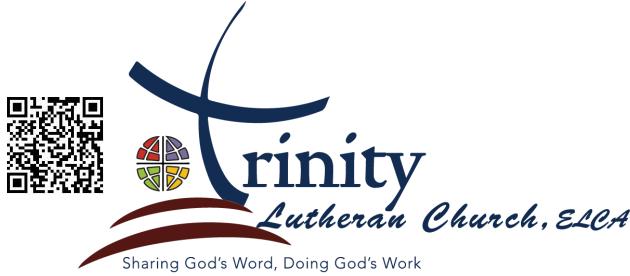
10 lines for bagging meals - Up to 12 people per line  
**120 people needed per shift**

Sign up your group or individuals at  
[www.eastriver.coop/foodpack](http://www.eastriver.coop/foodpack)



Questions? Call Scott Parsley  
605-270-2416





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](http://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 January Mission of the Month is the Angel Fund. The Angel Fund is managed through the Madison Central School District to help with various family and student needs within the school district.

*Gifts may be designated on offering envelopes/checks to Mission of the Month Fund. The Jingle Change collection on January 11 also supports the Mission of the Month.*

### Congregational Information

**Deaths:** none

**Baptisms:** Charley Eulberg on December 21

**Weddings:** none

### Food Pantry

The Lake County Food Pantry mission of the month for January is boxed meals ("Helpers" and macaroni & cheese). 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**