

The Epistle

Trinity Lutheran Church

8 South Midland Blvd.

Nampa, ID 83651

Vicar: Aaron Carr

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or find us on

[facebook](#)

Our Mission Statement

Trinity Lutheran Church is a place to gather, refresh the faithful, and reach out with word and service to all others through the Holy Gospel.

January 2025

FROM THE



Saying Goodbye....

Saying goodbye as an Interim Pastor is always bittersweet. On one hand, I am excited that our

work together has been completed and that you are beginning your journey with your new pastor. On the other hand, I will miss serving you, playing with you, worshiping with you, learning with you, leading you, and simply being in your presence.

As many of you are aware, it is not permitted for interims (or previous pastors) to come back for congregational activities for a time. This is to allow space for the new pastor to establish a solid relationship with each of you.

Although I won't be in contact with you, each of you will remain in my heart. Thank you for allowing me to be your pastor for the last eighteen months. It has been an utter delight. I now give you over to Pastor Aaron who will come to love you all as much as I have. What an exciting journey you are beginning with him! Although I will no longer be your pastor, I will always be your friend.

God's peace be with you and Happy Trails,

Pastor Barbara

THANK YOU! Thank you to Pastor Barb for stepping in to be our interim pastor over the past year and a half. We very much appreciate everything that you have done to take care of our congregation, and you will be in our thoughts and

prayers going forward. Thank you for taking care of us and helping us to move forward!



WELCOME VICAR AARON CARR!

Aaron Carr has entered into a ministry contract to serve as the Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM) for Trinity Lutheran. What is a S.A.M. you may ask. A Synodically Authorized Minister is a Lay Person who the Synod Bishop has authorized to preach, consecrate the eucharistic elements (bread and wine at Communion), and, in all other ways, function in the pastoral position in a congregation. A SAM doesn't use the title of Reverend or Pastor but is called the Vicar. You may remember that Mia Crosthwaite used this title for herself while on internship at Trinity. When Vicar Aaron has completed the requirements for ordination in the ELCA and is ordained his title will change to pastor.

Welcome to Vicar Aaron and his family, his wife, Jessica, their daughter, Qin, (currently attending Pacific Lutheran University), and their son, Maxell, (currently in high school).



ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING!

The Annual Congregation meeting will take place on January 26th this year after service. Please make plans to attend this meeting so that we can get the new year kicked off well. We will be reviewing and voting on the new year's budget as well as electing new members to committees and council. There will be Q&A sessions to review the budget the two weeks prior to the meeting so after services on 1/12 and 1/19. Also, if you are interested in serving on council or a committee, please let the members of the nominating committee know of your interest (Penelope Smith, Steve VanAtter, Edith Hannett, Dean Metzger) We appreciate everything that you do in assisting us! Congregation Council

purchase gas cards, pay for people's utilities, medication, etc. – Church in Community

THRIVENT FINANCIAL PROJECT – Thrivent Financial will be sponsoring a project for Trinity New Hope on Sunday, January 5th. So please plan on staying after church service to help fill and deliver fruit bags to the New Hope Families. Along with this, Pastor Barb has put together House Blessing Kits to be included. Thanks! Church in Community



The **Women's Lunch** is Tuesday, January 7, 2025. This will be a potluck lunch with a white elephant gift exchange and will be at the church, at 11:30am.

NEWS FROM CHURCH AND COMMUNITY



NOVEMBER NOISY OFFERING

There was an AMAZING show of kindness towards Valley Crisis Center for the **November Noisy**

Offering! Trinity members donated \$297.37 PLUS in kind items. So for a grand total, this is the amount of items taken to the women & children's center:

Women's-Hats#	33#	Girl's-Socks#	12#	Toothbrushes#	19#
Women's-Gloves#	23#	Boy's-Socks#	26#	Shampoo#	7#
Women's-Socks#	42#	Scarves#	16#	Floss#	20#
Women's-PJs#	12#	Children's-PJs#	10#	Soaps#	25#
Women's-Coats#	8#	Children's-Coats#	4#	Toothpaste#	18#
Women's-Shirts#	5#	Children's-Hats#	40#	Conditioner#	7#
Leggings#	6#	Children's-Gloves#	35#	Lotion#	8#
Booties#	1#	Blankets#	7#	Lip-Balm#	12#
Boots#	2-pairs#	%	%	Hand-Sanitizer#	3#

A BIG THANKS for everyone's continued support for those in need in our community!

JANUARY NOISY OFFERING on Sunday 1/26/25 will be for the Pastor's emergency fund. People may come to the church office seeking assistance for a variety of reasons, so this money goes to help

TRINITY GARDENS UPDATE Thank you so much to the families of TLC for supporting the community garden. The Noisy Offering and the Idaho Gives is primarily supported by parishioners of TLC. This summer of 2024 is the 17th harvest season. We grew 1,305 pounds of produce and gleaned 1,423 pounds from generous other landowners.

Most of our produce was delivered to the Nazarene Care House warehouse, but we also delivered many salad ingredients to the women's shelter. Much of the gleaned (tomatoes and zucchini) was delivered to Caldwell Senior Citizens for their hot lunch program.

This year, we replaced 5 raised beds and split the west watering zone into two zones. We should have better control of the watering with this improvement. Also, we have purchased 3 rolls of drip line and in the spring will replace all the lines that are 17 years old and not functioning well. Those improvements cost us appx \$2,400.

This year, all the gardeners were Canyon County Master Gardeners, so that partnership is still thriving. We did receive a \$330 grant for irrigation lines from the University of Idaho.

Thank you again for all your support. We anticipate another great gardening season. Paulette Blaseg

MONDAY MIDWINTER MOVIES - starts on January 6th at the home of Tami Robinson, 818 W Oakmont, Nampa 83686. That's just 1 block north of Iowa St, a few blocks east of Midland. And the new **ROUNABOUT** is completed!! We try to start the film promptly at 6:30 pm, so hope you will arrive early to socialize and grab your theater snacks. Gospel and Growth committee will provide treats on January 6th. If you plan to attend some/all of the films and would like to bring treats, please connect with Tami Robinson and use the sign-up sheet; that way we can spread the joy over two months (vs having a feast-or-famine situation). Here is our lineup for this season; watch for more detailed information in each week's Sunday bulletin or refer to the poster in the narthex. People of all ages are welcomed, and it's fine for you to invite friends/family.

1/6 - Bonhoeffer, Agent of Grace (2000)

1/13 - Pollyanna (1960 with Hayley Mills) - our "gratitude" selection

1/20 - Inside Out 1 (2015) - animated

1/27 - Hoosiers (1986 - our sports selection)

2/3 - Bonhoeffer - (2003 - documentary)

2/10 - Inside Out 2 (2024)

2/17 - The Princess Bride (1987)

2/24 - Driving Miss Daisy (1989)

AVENUES FOR HOPE - kicked off on December 9th, and Trinity New Hope has been blessed with many wonderful donations! **Thank You** to each and every one of you (43 as of this writing) who have already donated! In addition to the donations made online (plus a few checks given to Cathy Winwood), we have secured \$2500 in matching funds and a \$950 in prize money. Prizes include **\$500 Early Bird** (12 donations on 12/9), **\$250 Weekend Warrior** (12 donations over the 12/14-12/15 weekend), **\$100 Savvy Story** (sharing on Facebook a story of how living in one of our houses has changed a family's life), and **\$100 Trivia Tuesday**. This prize is new in 2024 and will happen again on 12/24; Avenues posts a trivia question on Facebook; people are asked to answer that question in the comments and tag their favorite nonprofit. All correct answers are entered into a drawing. The 12/17 question asked, "what percentage of the 9228 individuals confirmed as homeless in Idaho in 2023 were veterans?" Jessica Carr (wife of Trinity's new pastor) correctly answered 6% and tagged Trinity New Hope....and her name was the winner of the

random drawing! For this, she won a \$100 e-card (which she can use to make donations to up to 4 nonprofits) and Trinity New Hope won a \$100 prize.

This fundraiser continues through 11:59 pm on 12/31, but offline/check donations need to be logged in by 12/29. We know there will be another Trivia Tuesday prize on 12/24. We need 1 more state to secure the **\$250 Domestic Dozen** prize (for donations from 12 different states). We expect Avenues to announce one or two new surprise prizes near the end of the campaign.....so be watching! We welcome your donations any time. And, if you forget, set yourself a reminder to make a donation after the Fiesta Bowl on 12/31! Here is the link to donate [Give to Trinity New Hope Avenues for Hope Housing Challenge](#) or go to avenuesforhope.org.

PROPERTY – This year we had a couple things to fix. Irrigation line, replaced the solenoid and broken valve. Had a ceiling leak in the sanctuary. Had that part of the roof shingled and some wood replaced. We raked leaves, trimmed shrubs and rose bushes for outside work. Inside work at Church we have a cleaning lady come in once a month for cleaning. Replaced the garbage disposal and want to Thank Andrew Hanson for installing it for me. Still have to get our ceiling repaired in the sanctuary due from the roof leaking. I would like to give the people who helped out in some of these projects a big thank you. Darrel Miller

FALL FINANCIAL APPEAL As of December, a total of 28 households responded to the appeal by turning in a completed "statement of intent" card. \$100,574.04 was pledged toward Trinity's 2025 expenses. Our deepest thanks to these households for making Church Council's budgeting role much easier. A number of other households are actively involved in the church (both in volunteering time and in giving offerings) but do not make financial commitments in advance. For this reason, we do expect that the church's gross receipts will exceed \$100k.

ADVENT DAILY DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET - before we close out the year, we want to express our gratitude to each and every one of our authors! Your candor has touched our hearts; your words have inspired us. You have made Advent 2024 so much more meaningful, and we thank you! And our thanks to Mary Braudrick for the cover art!

2025 A YEAR OF GRATITUDE - We are ready to move on from our theme for 2024 (A Year of Welcome) - but that doesn't mean it's okay to start being grumpy with visitors or our fellow members! Keep up the good work of welcoming - and add to it "gratitude". **Gratitude** is a perspective, which often leads to actions expressing thankfulness.....like writing thank you notes after opening your Christmas presents. But it's so much bigger than that, and the benefits of having a grateful heart are immense! Throughout 2025, we will explore the many facets of gratitude. There will be some book discussions, some crafts, some mentions in the worship service, a lending library, etc. Our first gratitude activity will be watching a film with that theme during Monday MidWinter Movies on **January 13th** - one that will appeal to the whole family – **Pollyanna** with Hayley Mills. Meanwhile, be thinking about where in your life it is easy to be grateful - and where do you struggle? Who in your life do you think of with gratitude and who only conjures up irritation? Is feeling gratitude a joy or a chore? When was the last time you expressed gratitude to a total stranger? Was that easier or more difficult than being grateful to your spouse, parent or child? When were you last surprised by someone's gratitude toward you? Did that make you feel happy or uncomfortable?

IMPACTFUL PASTORS - Going with the 2025 theme of "**Gratitude**", we are hoping you have a little (or big) story to share - about how (sometime in your life) a pastor had a positive impact on your life. It may have been when you were a child - or more recently. It may have happened at a dramatic life-altering moment or been something seemingly minor that has stuck with you. (Ask Sharon Jones how she knew she needed to join Trinity Lutheran! The pastor in that story may not even remember this happening, but it was pivotal for Sharon.) You may not even remember the name of that pastor, but an incident or a word has embedded itself in your consciousness. We would like you to take a few moments and write this down.....and give your story to Sarah Henthorn. And, if writing is not your thing, but you are comfortable sharing it aloud, you can do that by talking with Sarah or Penelope Smith. We'd be happy to craft your words into a story and have you proofread it.

TUESDAY STUDY GROUP



"Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?"

Christian Identity in a Multi-Faith

World" on Tuesdays from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Join us every Tuesday as we read this book by Brian McLaren. It's never too late to jump in.

Copies of the book are available. We are learning how to be strong in our own faith as Christians and still respect our friends and neighbors of other faiths or no faith.



Statistical Comparison for August - September

<u>2023</u>		<u>2024</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
11/26	42	12/1	46
12/3	47	12/4 (Advent 1)	22
12/6 (Advent 1)		12/8	67
12/10	48	12/11 (Advent 2)	32
12/13 (Advent 2)		12/15	50
12/17	66	12/18 (Advent 3)	40
12/20 (Advent 3)		12/22	56
12/24	43	12/24	75
12/25	15	12/25	12
12/31	39	12/29(not available)	



OFFICERS/COMMITTEE LIAISONS 2024



President Larry Mills (25)

Vice-President Sarah Henthorn (24)

Secretary Sierra Armbrust (25)

Treasurer and Accounts Payable Coordinator Karissa Armbrust (renewable)

Financial Secretary Kristina Radke (renewable)

COUNCIL TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

Christian Education/Youth: Sierra Armbrust (25)

Church in Community: Lloyd Kellar (26)

Communication: Dean Metzger (24)

Gospel and Growth: Edith Hannett (24)

Hospitality: Edith Hannett (24)

Property: Darrell Miller (25)

Stewardship: Phil Cronk (26)

Trinity New Hope: Sierra Armbrust (24)

Worship & Music: Bryce Quarve (26)

Mutual Ministry: Sarah Henthorn (24)

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Audit: Karen Bair (26), Cathy Winwood (25)

Endowment: Larry Mills, (24) Jeff Henderson, Edith Hannett

Memorial: Kallie Ziemer (25), Joyce Becht (26), Lloyd Kellar (24)

Nominating: Edith Hannett, Dean Metzger, Steve VanAtter, Penelope Smith

Mutual Ministry: Sharon Jones, Carl Radke, Sarah Henthorn

Synod Assembly Voting Members: Jerry & Karissa Armbrust

Luther Heights Reps: Janet Metzger & Cathy Winwood

IN OUR PRAYERS

For healing: Colton	(Fran & Elwood's grandson – brain tumor)
Jony	(Linda Dombeck's son – health)
Rylee Bentley	(Emily Bentley's cousin – health issues)
Sharon Jones' nieces	(Alzheimer's)
Monica Perez	(friend of Edith Hannett – in need of a kidney)
Di Seba	(cancer treatments)
Kim Edwards	(from Sharon Jones)
Trent Glover	(Relational Healing)
Angel Bray	(Margreta Spady's granddaughter – cancer)
Abby	(Fran & Elwood's granddaughter – seizures)
Don Tiller	(Continuing his recovery)
Eileen Warner	(Received pacemaker. Kristina Radke's Mom)
Sherry Swim	(Upcoming Surgery. Mary B. cousin)
Frank Hobden	(Recovering from blood clot – Carl Radke's Uncle)
Nico Megevand	(Recovering at home. Sharon Jones grandson-in-law)
Chris Koons	(Successful surgery – husband of Anita Koons)
Tina Zielinski	(Broken leg & ankle daughter of Randy & Martha Miller)
Chris Koons	(Positive pathology results – Anita Koons)

For Andrew	(Elizabeth Schnabel)
For Klayton Hanson	(from Karson Hanson)
For Perkins Family	(grieving a death in the family)
For Chloe	(grieving a death in the family)
For Thomas	(Assistance for finding housing. Janie Stubson)
For Freedom	(from Sarah Braudrick)
For Shelli Climans	(from Sharon Jones)
For Santana	(from Janie Stubson long term pen pal)

People in the Armed Services:

Brett Collins	(grandson of Helen Collins – Marines)
John C. Collins II	(Helen Collins' grandson – Navy SEAL)
Bill MacDonald	(Navy)
Amanda Love	(Cathy Winwood's Niece – Army)

*Prayer concerns will be removed after two months on the list
unless you let the office know otherwise*

Trinity Servants For December 2024

δουλος [doulos] is the New Testament Greek word for servant.

	January 5 Epiphany	January 12 Baptism of Our Lord	January 19 Epiphany 2	January 26 Epiphany 3	February 2 Epiphany 4
<u>Assisting Minister</u>	Steve VanAtter	Steve VanAtter	Karissa Armbrust	Karissa Armbrust	Bryce Quarve
<u>Crucifer</u>	Jason Mills	Aldwin Kellar	Steve VanAtter	Giada Armbrust	Alexa Ward
<u>Acolyte</u>	Abigail Radke	Owen Ziemer	Elizabeth Schnabel	Zander Radke	Aldwin Kellar
<u>Reader</u>	Penelope Smith	Jeff Henderson	Trent Glover	Amanda Hanson	Abigail Radke
<u>Children's Message</u>	Sierra Armbrust	Steve VanAtter	Sarah Henthorn	Larry Mills	Karissa Armbrust
<u>Music</u>	Karissa Armbrust	Bryce Leifeste	Karissa Armbrust	Bryce Leifeste	Karissa Armbrust
<u>Audio/Streaming</u>	Elizabeth Schnabel & Bryce Quarve	Bryce Quarve & David Sheriff	Andrew Hanson & David Sheriff	Andrew Hanson & Jason Mills	Jason Mills & Sarah Henthorn
<u>Greeters</u>	The Ziemer Family	Steve & Julie Ward	Karen Bair & Penelope Smith	Pat & Donna Benoit	The Hanson Family
<u>Ushers</u>	Pat & Donna Benoit	Lloyd & Judy Kellar	Darrel & Peggy Miller	Penelope Smith & Elizabeth Schnabel	The Radke Family
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Beth Rasgorshek	Judy Kellar	Cathy Winwood	TBD	Kim Mills
<u>Offering Counters</u>	Lloyd Kellar & TBD	Sierra Armbrust & Larry Mills	Dean Metzger & TBD	TBD & TBD	Lloyd Kellar & Darrel Miller
<u>Fellowship</u>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<u>S. S. Teacher</u>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<u>Flowers</u>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<u>Wine</u>	<u>Eternal Candle</u>	<u>Communion Bread</u>	<u>Church Cleaning</u>		
Julie Haugen	Julie Haugen	Judy Kellar	TBD		

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TO:

A large graphic for the month of January. The word "JANUARY" is written in a large, black, sans-serif font. Below the word is a thick, horizontal gold bar. The entire graphic is surrounded by several small, gold, triangular confetti pieces.

JANUARY

Trinity Lutheran Church Calendar for January 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Office Closed Noon – Al-Anon 	2 Office 8:00 – Noon 6:30 pm Al-Anon	3 Office Closed	4 Office Closed
5 Epiphany 9 am – Intergenerational Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion 11 am Fellowship Time Thrivent/New Hope Project	6 Office 8:00 – Noon	7 Office 8:00 – Noon Noon - Al-Anon 2-4 pm Study Group	8 Office 8:00 – Noon	9 Office 8:00 – Noon 6:30 pm Al-Anon	10 Office Closed	11 Office Closed
12 Baptism of Our Lord 9 am – Intergenerational Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion 11 am Fellowship Time	13 Office 8:00 – Noon	14 Office 8:00 – Noon Noon - Al-Anon 2-4 pm Study Group	15 Office 8:00 – Noon	16 Office 8:00 – Noon 6:30 pm Al-Anon	17 Office Closed	18 Office Closed
19 Epiphany 2 9 am – Intergenerational Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion 11 am Fellowship Time	20 Office 8:00 – Noon 9:00 am Epistle Articles Due	21 Office 8:00 – Noon Noon - Al-Anon 2-4 pm Study Group 7 pm Church Council	22 Office 8:00 – Noon	23 Office 8:00 – Noon 6:30 pm Al-Anon	24 Office Closed	25 Office Closed
26 Epiphany 2 9 am – Intergenerational Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion 11 am Fellowship Time Noisy Offering Annual Congregation Meeting	27 Office 8:00 – Noon	28 Office 8:00 – Noon 11:30am Women's Luncheon	29 Office 8:00 – Noon	30 Office 8:00 – Noon	31 Office Closed	1 Office Closed