

The Epistle

Trinity Lutheran Church

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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.

October 2025



Vicar's Article

What is a Church Visioning Process? Jesus showed us that God loves us through his life, stories, and returning from death. We get to share that love, those stories, and victory over death. God just asks in return that we love God and

love ourselves and everyone around us. When we love and care for those around us at church on Sunday, at events throughout the year, and by helping those in the community around Trinity and the world, it feels good. Sharing God's love gives us energy and fills us with hope. Each of us is unique, so it will be different things that make each of us feel good – that fill us with energy and hope. For some it is prayers, for others music, for others sharing stories, and for others helping those in need.

In a Visioning Process we take time to share our stories about what has given us this feeling here at Trinity in the past and today. We acknowledge what we have done before that helped build our identity. Then we share stories and talk about who we are right now. We listen to each other's stories and learn what we as a community and what Nampa around us both need. Once we know what all of us find life-giving and energizing ways to share God's love, we narrow those down to a few clear ideas that we can all get behind. These will be Trinity's new mission(s). They will combine the things we love to do that spread God's love.

Visioning takes space for listening to other people's stories, to God, and to information about Trinity and the neighborhood around it. It gives the gift of knowing that your church's future will be something

that excites you and fills you with joy. It keeps God's love at the center of Trinity's mission. I invite you into an exciting journey ahead and ask you to support Trinity as we find our Passions next year.

Vicar Aaron Carr (He/Him)



NEWS FROM CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

happened on Saturday, September 20th. We made

meals for 2CKitchen for people in need. 20 meals were served and 17 more put in the community kitchen to be given out during the week. Thrivent Financial sponsored this project. Thanks so much for the amazing support and wonderful volunteers who helped make this project a success.

OCTOBER NOISY OFFERING

October is the month of National Domestic Violence Awareness. In the spirit of this, the noisy offering will be going to the Nampa Family Justice Center (NFJC). In America, according the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 7 men experience severe physical violence. According to an article from 2014 by domesticshelters.org, "15.5 million children in the U.S. live in families in which domestic violence occurred at least once in the previous year." Unfortunately, as reported by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, "witnessing violence between parents is the most influential risk factor for children to carry violent behavior from one generation to the next." The NFJC provides

services free of charge to anyone who has experienced domestic violence or abuse, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, stalking and human trafficking. Advocates help victims create a safety plan, file for protection orders, and find community resources. They also provide counseling, education, life skill training and case management to help the victims and their children navigate an extremely difficult circumstance. The NFJC provides a safe place and gives *hope* to people and families that might not be able to see it anywhere else. See more at their website: <https://FJCfoundationidaho.org>

SEPTEMBER NOISY OFFERING – on Sunday the 28th was to show appreciation to our neighbors at West Learning Center. Money raised was used to purchase snacks for the teachers and staff at the three alternative schools that are housed at WLC. Union is grades 6-12; Nampa Academy is grades 9-12, and RISE. Thank you to everyone who signed the card of thanks to those amazing staff members!

AUGUST NOISY OFFERING -- on August 31st for the Shoe That Grows brought in an AMAZING amount of money, totaling \$847.61! This will purchase 42 shoes. The generosity of the congregation here at Trinity Lutheran continues to be wonderful. Thanks so much to everyone!

DONATIONS BY VERSE

Keep an eye open for a verse or prayer in the Sunday bulletins that mentions a food item. Please bring the food items mentioned for that month. October's food pantry request comes from a reading from Luke 14:5, 6. The Apostles ask Jesus to make their faith stronger. Jesus replies, "your faith must be big as a mustard seed." Faith makes us strong, and you grow. Church in Community asks that you bring in items like seeds of change, rice or peanut butter. Please bring microwavable or packaged foods.

TRUNK OR TREAT

West Ada learning Center will be hosting a trunk or treat on October 29th. If you are interested in helping or even supplying some candy for them, please contact the VanAtters.

PASTOR'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2025

Cluster: Met at KOG on September 2nd. Coordinating with Diane McGeoch to plan October 5th Confirmation class at Trinity
Committees: I met with Stewardship twice.
Congregational Activities: Backpack Blessing on August 31st. Buried Sharon Jones with her family

on September 2nd. BBQ and Breakfast Potluck for Kick off were both wonderful chances to celebrate with church leadership and educators the weekend of the 7th. Mary Braudrick led service and delivered a lovely sermon on September 14th.

Personal: Qin went back to PLU the weekend of August 30th. Saturday September 6th Jessica's family had a family reunion in Meridian that we enjoyed before the BBQ.

Synod: Met with the Candidacy Committee on Friday August 22 in Spokane and was accepted for candidacy for ordination. Attended Theological Education for Emerging Ministries for the Life of the World conference at PLTS, Berkley, September 11-13th, kicking off my required Lutheran education for ELCA Ordination to Pastor Aaron. My next class will be in October.

Tuesday Study Group: I lead the Tuesday study group through Psalms. We continue Psalms of thanks. Tuesday psalms group has grown to over a dozen.

Worship: Still in Setting 10, in September and will move into "This is the feast" in October. The goal for General Season this year is to get me used to the three most common settings, 4, 10, and "This is the Feast." In our worship space our tree keeps growing, now with where we express gratitude for finding God at work in our lives.

Visits: Regular shut-in visits: Margaret Booth & Marilyn Kirkness

BLOOD DRIVE

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive held in the Fellowship Hall of the church on October 13th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Please come and support this drive, and share the event with your friends, family, neighbors and anyone else you feel you can!

MONDAY MIDWINTER MOVIES

It's a little over 3 months before we show our first movie, so it may feel a bit early to start thinking about our winter film series. However, our plan is to meet at Tami Robinson's home again this year, gathering after 6pm with shows starting at 6:30 pm, and targeting films that run about 90-120 minutes. We will have 6 films beginning January 5th and ending February 9th (since Ash Wednesday is 2/18). With the recent death of film icon Robert Redford, we decided that we absolutely must show one Redford movie--but how to choose? Here's how you can help us: look at the following list of the Redford classics that fall within our time allotment, Select the one that YOU would most love to watch on a Monday, then let Penelope Smith know by text OR email OR a note in her church mailbox. Voting ends on Halloween 10/31.

A River Runs Through It
Barefoot in the Park
Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid
Downhill Racer
Jeremiah Johnson
Ordinary People
Sneakers
The Candidate
The Old Man and The Gun
The Sting
The Way We Were
Three Days of the Condor

CROP WALK SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Crop Hunger Walks help to support the overall work of Church World Service, particularly grassroots development efforts around the world. Canyon County Crop Walk returns 25% of the funds it raises to hunger fighting programs in its own community. This year recipients are Trinity Community Garden, Wilder Food Bank, St. Clarie's Food Pantry. CROP Hunger Walks help to provide food and water as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools to wells and water systems, the key is people are working together to identify their own development priorities, their strengths and their needs. Since the Covid Pandemic, the number of walkers has significantly decreased. This year, Canyon County CROP Walk is hoping for 100 walkers and to raise \$10,000.

CROP Walk Location: Nampa Seventh Day Adventist Church [307 W. Iowa Ave, Nampa]
Mark your calendars for this year's Canyon County CROP Walk. Contact Kristina Radke for more details.

GRATITUDE DISCUSSIONS

We are excited to offer a 2-week (but perhaps extending to a third week) series capping off our 2025 A Year of Gratitude. On Wednesdays November 5th and 12th, we will gather in the Koinonia Room (blue room) and talk about gratitude in our lives. We have 6 books about gratitude to share with participants; this will help spark some interesting conversations. It would be helpful to know, in advance, who plans to join us, so let Penelope Smith know if you would like to be a part of this group.

THE SHAPES OF OUR GRATITUDE

At the church Camp Out, and during the month of September, we have asked you to think about what you are grateful for, and to write it down on a "shape". These shapes have been collected and are posted on the back walls of the sanctuary. Take

a look and see how gratitude takes shape amongst our Trinity family.

ADVENT DAILY DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

Each year the members and friends of Trinity Lutheran compose short devotions, which are compiled into a book that we use during the season of Advent, distributing it in late November. In addition to the hard-copy booklet, we also do a pdf and a large print version. Some entries are scholarly; some humorous; some short; some longer; some personal; some conceptual; all are inspiring. The deadline for submitting YOUR entry is October 20th so, if you have not already sent yours in, it's time to get going! Send these by email to Penelope Smith at: micahsixv8@hotmail.com or leave a hard copy in her church mailbox. Questions?? Talk with Edith Hannett, Tami Robinson or Penelope.

PET BLESSING

Wednesday, October 1st, we will hold our annual blessing of the animals on the church lawn between 6:30 and 8:00 pm. Bring your pet or a photo of your pet. If you don't want to sit on a metal folding chair, bring a lawn chair. Invite your animal-loving friends and family to join you. We will have a brief "service" including prayers in the voices of a variety of animals (thank you, Michala Mills!!), followed by the blessings of individual animals, and paw-shaped cookies for both humans and dogs. You will take home a colorful "pet blessing certificate" with your pet's name on it. Please join us for a very fun outdoor activity!

VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

As you may have noticed, it takes 3 paid staff, plus 20 volunteers, to make our worship service happen each Sunday—not to mention all the many other volunteer roles that happen the other six days of the week. That being said, obviously, we need LOTS of people to sign up--hopefully to do more than one thing. During the month of October, we will distribute our "TIME AND TALENT" sheets – with different versions for adults and children/youth. We will hand them out at Sunday worship and are also able to send them to you by email. They will be available at Sunday School and group meetings; we may even send some by snail mail! We ask you to fill yours out and return it to the wicker basket in the back of the sanctuary. These will not be tabulated until November, so your name may not show up on a servant list until 2026. We are so grateful for your help. If you would like to assist before then please let the office know! There are always places and servant roles you can help with!

FALL FINANCIAL APPEAL

This will happen this month. On the first three Sundays we will have lay speakers relating their personal experiences with “the visioning process”. Mid-month, you will receive a letter asking you to prayerfully consider your financial support of Trinity Lutheran during 2026. Enclosed with this letter will be a Statement of Intent card and a return envelope. On October 26th we will celebrate Commitment Sunday, asking you to bring in your cards. If you will be gone on 10/26, please leave your card at the church office or mail it in. There will be a blessing of our intent to serve God, both financially and as volunteers.

COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS

The most recent update to Trinity Community Garden’s produce haul is 1062 pounds grown and 1498 pounds total gleaned. Amazing! Keep up the wonderful work ladies!

WORKSHOP IN BOISE

Let us give you some background: During March-April 2025, the Boise Mennonite Fellowship hosted a discussion series on “Challenging Christian Nationalism” using the book *Strange Worship* as text. The book’s author is Drew Strait, a pastor and professor at the Mennonite Seminary in Indiana. For more about him, visit his website <https://www.drewstrait.com> -- Trinity members who attended this series included Donna & Pat Benoit, David Sheriff, Penelope Smith and Renee & Steve VanAtter. The series had interfaith participation: Christians from across the spectrum, Muslims, Jews, and people who followed no particular religion. One outcome of this discussion series was to invite Drew Strait to lead a free workshop in Boise during the Fall. This has been scheduled for November 8th (see the following information). If you would like more information or to look through a copy of the text, please talk with one of the Trinity participants.

How to Challenge Christian Nationalism: Peacemaking in an Age of Extremism. Saturday, November 8 from 10am - 5pm MST hosted at Boise First United Church of Christ - 2201 Woodlawn Avenue Boise, ID 83702. How to Challenge Christian Nationalism: Peacemaking in an Age of Extremism. This FREE workshop defines Christian nationalism from both political and theological perspectives and offers practical suggestions for how we can challenge white Christian nationalism. Drawing on the disciplines of biblical studies, theology, and peace studies, we will explore realistic and effective strategies of nonviolent resistance within the context of faith communities.

Special attention will be given to defining white Christian nationalism, political idolatry, nonviolent civil resistance, biblical authoritarianism, and strategies to confront theologies of oppression. The workshop is designed for congregants and leaders from a variety of theological backgrounds. Everyone is welcome!



TUESDAY STUDY GROUP

PSALMS on Tuesdays from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Since **February 11th** this group has been focusing on Psalms.

Each participant brings his/her own favorite translation of the Bible (perhaps Vicar Aaron will bring his Hebrew version?!) and we study the different genre of the psalms. It is generally accepted that they group into the following categories: Lament (of the community and of individuals); Specialized Lament (penitential and imprecatory); Thanksgiving (of the community and the individual); Specialized Thanksgiving (salvation history and songs of trust); Hymnic Psalms (hymns and doxologies); Liturgical Psalms for Public Worship (covenant songs, royal/enthronement songs, songs of Zion, and temple liturgies); and Community/Wisdom Psalms. If you have an interest in the psalms, or an interest in a study group - this would be a good time to join us. If your schedule has you out of town frequently, this would be an ideal topic for you - each week’s lesson is self-contained, and you won’t feel lost if you miss a week or two. Please consider joining us in the Koinonia (blue) room on Tuesdays between 1:00 - 3:00 pm as we trek through the psalms together.

Statistical Comparison for August - September

2024/2025

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
08/04	45	08/03	28
08/11	46	08/10	43
08/18	49	08/17	(N/A)
08/25	46	08/24	35
09/01	67	09/00	00
09/08	57	09/07	41
09/15	34	09/14	41
09/22	36	09/21	40
09/29	41	09/28	36



OFFICERS/COMMITTEE
LIAISONS 2025



- President** Larry Mills (25)
- Vice-President** Bryce Quarve (26)
- 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:** Cedar Hilger (27)
- Communication:** Lloyd Kellar (26)
- Gospel and Growth:** Sierra Armbrust (25)
- Hospitality:** Edith Hannett (27)
- Property:** Darrell Miller (25)
- Stewardship:** Phil Cronk (26)
- Trinity New Hope:** Andrew Hanson (27)
- Worship & Music:** Larry Mills (25)
- Mutual Ministry:** Bryce Quarve (26)

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENTS

- Audit:** Karen Bair (26), Cathy Winwood (25), Emily Bentley (27)
- Endowment:** Jeff Henderson (25), Edith Hannett (26), Julie Ward (27)
- Memorial:** Kallie Ziemer (25), Joyce Becht (26), Peggy Miller (27)
- Nominating:** Sierra Armbrust, Larry Mills, Sharon Jones, Pat Benoit
- Mutual Ministry:** Carl Radke, Jerry Armbrust, Bryce Quarve
- Synod Assembly Voting Members:** Jerry Armbrust & Cathy Winwood
- Luther Heights Reps:** Janet Metzger & Cathy Winwood



THANK YOU!

Thank you, Penelope Smith, Sarah Henthorn, and Phil Cronk, for organizing our Kickoff BBQ on September 6th. It was great to sit with everyone and share some burgers and hot dogs in the sun.

Thank you, Amanda Hanson, Sierra Armbrust, and Larry Mills for leading the Sunday school potlatch on September 7th, I look forward to having children, youth, and adult classes at 9 am before church this year!

Thank you, Mary Braudrick for covering service while I attended the TEEM theological conference in Berkely for my required Lutheran education. You held a beautiful liturgy and gave a lovely devotional homily.

Thank you to Cathy Winwood, Tami Robinson, Karissa Armbrust, Penelope Smith, Emily Bentley, Maxwell Baldwin, Vicar Aaron, Jessica Carr, Sharon Hurd, Mary Helen & Gail Leininger, Rob Readmond and Thrivent Financial for the fabulous volunteer work you did for September's God's Work, Our Hands project – Church in Community



IN OUR PRAYERS

For healing: Colton (Fran & Elwood's grandson – brain tumor)
Monica Perez (friend of Edith Hannett – in need of a kidney)
Angel Bray (Cancer is dormant – Margretta's granddaughter)
Vicki (exhibiting terrible temper – Janie Stubson)
Eileen Warner (Received pacemaker. Kristina Radke's Mom)
Karen Bair (doing well, thanks for all the prayers!)
Linda Larson (in treatment for lymphoma – Mary Braudrick)
Tina Zielinski (Ankle/Leg healing daughter of Randy & Martha Miller)
Cody (Youth with heart condition – Emily Bentley)
Addie (Teenage Crohn's disease – Cathy Winwood)
Rita (Renee's sister -- Renee VanAtter)
Linda Dombeck (health issues – Mary Braudrick)
Gail Leininger (recovering from shoulder surgery – Mary Helen)
Trent Glover (recovering from a fall and surgery)
Paulette Blaseg (recovering from receiving pacemaker)
Glynis Calhoun (healing from horse riding accident – Mary Braudrick)

For Andrew (from Elizabeth Schnabel)
For Berger Family (mourning loss of daughter from Mary Helen & Gail)
For Chris & Cooper Koons (hoping for good test results – Anita Koons)
For Janna (trying for promotion – Janie Stubson)
For Family of Amy Bal (died from pneumonia -- from Radke Family)
For Sharon Jones's family (mourning loss of Sharon Jones)
For Family of Di Seba (mourning loss of Diana Seba)
For Doug (looking for employment – son of Tami Robinson)
For Shannon Miller (mourning loss of Pat Malloy, past member of Trinity)
For EJ & Laura Clubb (mourning loss of Elvin Clubb – Lloyd & Judy Kellar)
For Jane Leininger (mourning loss of mother – Gail Leininger)

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 October 2025

Trinity Lutheran Church Servant Assignments (please find your own replacement and notify office if you can't serve.)

	October 05 Pentecost 17	October 12 Pentecost 18	October 19 Pentecost 19	October 26 Pentecost 20	November 02 All Saints Sunday
<u>Assisting Minister</u>	Mary Braudrick	Mary Braudrick	Bryce Quarve	Brayce Quarve	Kim Mills
<u>Crucifer</u>	Abigail Radke	Cedar Hilger	Aldwin Kellar	Karson Hanson	Steve VanAtter
<u>Acolyte</u>	Aldwin Kellar	Karson Hanson	Aggie Klahn	Zander Radke	Carl Radke
<u>Reader</u>	Sierra Armbrust	Janie Stubson	David Sheriff	Jeff Henderson	Sarah Henthorn
<u>Children's Message</u>	Larry Mills	Vicar Aaron	Karissa Armbrust	Vicar Aaron	Steve VanAtter
<u>Music</u>	Bryce Leifeste	Karissa Armbrust	Bryce Leifeste	Karissa Armbrust	Bryce Leifeste
<u>Audio/Streaming</u>	Larry Mills & Bryce Quarve	David Sheriff & Bryce Quarve	Andrew Hanson & David Sheriff	Karson & Andrew Hanson	Larry Mills & Sarah Henthorn
<u>Greeters</u>	Ardelle O'Bryan & Julie Haugen	Tami Robnson & Joyce Becht	Judy & Lloyd Kellar	Darrel & Peggy Miller	The Benoits
<u>Ushers</u>	Tami Robinson & Michala Mills	Steve & Renee VanAtter	Darrel & Peggy Miller	Jeff & Nancy Henderson	Radke Family
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Kim Mills	Kim Mills	The Benoits	Cathy Winwood	Leingers
<u>Offering Counters</u>	TBD	TBD	Sierra Armbrust & TBD	TBD	Sierra Armbrust & Andrew Hanson
<u>Fellowship</u>	Mary Braudrick	Joyce & Edith	Zander Radke		Margretta Spady & David Sheriff
<u>Flowers</u>		Hendersons			The VanAtters
<u>Sunday School</u>					
<u>Wine</u> Sharon Hurd	<u>Eternal Candle</u> Randy & Martha Miller	<u>Communion Bread</u> Beth Rasgorshek	<u>Church Cleaning</u> Randy & Martha Miller		

Trinity Lutheran Church Calendar for **October 2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1. Office 8:00 – Noon 6:30-8 pm Pet Blessing (on lawn)	2. Office 8:00 – Noon 6:30 pm Al-Anon	3. Office Closed Luther Heights Work	4. Office Closed Luther Heights Work
5. Pentecost 17 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion 11 am Fellowship Time 12 – 4 pm Confirmation group event Luther Heights Work	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 pm Learning Peace meeting 6:30 pm Al-Anon	10. Office Closed	11. Office Closed
12. 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion 11 am Fellowship Time	13. Office 8:00 – Noon 10 – 3pm Red Cross Blood Drive	14. Office 8:00 – Noon Noon - Al-Anon 2-4 pm Study Group 6:30 pm Stewardship	15. Office 8:00 – Noon	16. Office 8:00 – Noon 6:30 pm Al-Anon	17. Office Closed	18. Office Closed 9 – 12 pm Fall clean up 4 - 6:30 pm God's Work, Our Hands
19. 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion 11 am Fellowship Time Vicar out of office	20. Office 8:00 – Noon 9:00 am Epistle Articles Due Vicar out of office	21. Office 8:00 – Noon Noon - Al-Anon 2-4 pm Study Group 7pm Church Council Vicar out of office	22. Office 8:00 – Noon Vicar out of office	23. Office 8:00 – Noon 6:30 pm Al-Anon Vicar out of office	24. Office Closed Vicar out of office	25. Office Closed 8 – 4pm Al Anon event Vicar out of office
26. 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion (Noisy Offering) 11 am Fellowship Time 12-3 pm D&D Session	27. Office 8:00 – Noon	28. Office 8:00 – Noon Noon - Al-Anon 2-4 pm Study Group	29. Office 8:00 – Noon	30. Office 8:00 – Noon 6:30 pm Al-Anon	31. Office Closed Halloween	