The Epistle

Trinity Lutheran Church 8 South Midland Blvd. Nampa, ID 83651

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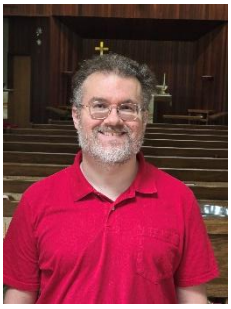
Our Mission Statement
Trinity Lutheran Church is a place to gather, refresh the faithful, and reach out with word and service to all others through the Holy Gospel.

November 2025



Vicar's Article
Having just finished Commitment/Reformation Sunday, and All Saints and we head towards the close of our year of Gratitude. In October we shared the hope, and joy of opening our hearts to God's vision next year. A sneak peak, with temple talks from voices in our Trinity Family. For transparency, Trinity New Hope's Sale to LEAP Housing closed on October 20th, as approved in our last annual meeting, that sale is for no less than $2.28 million dollars to be paid out from New Hopes earnings as a monthly until paid. Closing required a bank account for funds and future payments separate from the General Fund, so one was created and money will be held there until its mission and purpose are determined by our visioning process next year. Please feel free to ask or call me with any concerns.
Our Church Year ends on November 29th, so we can take this month to look back on the past year, from Advent into Christ the King and Thanksgiving. Thank you all for giving out of joy and hope for the future mission of Trinity we will all discover next year. While my first anniversary at Trinity comes in Epiphany, I am grateful for all that you have graciously taught me and your patience as I have learned both the Lutheran and Trinity's way of doing church. Thank you for the warm welcome to my family and your continual prayers and support as I learn, grow, and work with the Synod Candidacy Committee. I love the Feeling of Family and welcome here and hope we will share it with all. We have all shared our gratitude, growing a tree through the summer, lining the walls this last month, remembering what brings us back to Trinity each Sunday. Let us Give thanks for the gift of God's grace in our lives, the free gift of the spirit that reveals joy in all our life and work as we finish our church year in Gratitude.

Vicar Aaron Carr (He/Him)

NEWS FROM CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

WATCH FOR TURKEYS
keep your eyes open for a flock of turkey's arriving in the Narthex! Once again, Trinity Lutheran will be providing a Thanksgiving meal for some families in need in our community. More details to come.

NOVEMBER NOISY OFFERING
Will be going to Valley Women's & Children's Shelter (VWCS). VWCS provides a safe and stable place where homeless women and children can heal from the hurts that have left them vulnerable. Services provided are things like housing, meals, clothing, education, case management, job searching and counseling. The VWCS has 66 beds, is staffed 24/7, and is the only women and children shelter in Canyon County. Donations will be collected for women's and children's socks, hats, gloves, scarves, and hygiene items such as toothpaste and deodorant. Collection boxes will be in the Narthex for these donated items. You can always catch some of the holiday sales to purchase these items or donate on November 30th. Let's help Nampa's homeless be a bit warmer this winter!

SEPTEMBER NOISY OFFERING
Was to show appreciation to the West Learning Center teachers and staff. We raised $303.13 to provide treats for them—this is amazing! There is enough to do this 2 times! The 1st delivery was on October 28th. Watch for pictures on the website and social medias!

DONATIONS BY VERSE
November's Bible verse to help stack Trinity's food pantry comes from Jeremiah 23:3. God says that He will gather His people like a flock and bring them home. Please bring cans of chicken or other meats for the pantry. Items can be put in the big basket in the Narthex. Thank you!

PASTOR'S REPORT OCTOBER 2025
Cluster: Met at Indian Creek Plaza on Oct 7th. Held Oct 5th Confirmation class at Trinity on "Who is Our Neighbor?" and Oct 15th with KOG at Idaho Foodbank.
Committees: I met with Gospel & Growth, Endowment, Mutual Ministry, Music, Worship & Music, WAGM, and Stewardship.
Congregational Activities: Sept 20, God's Work Our Hands with 2C. Oct 18, we had our fall cleanup and second 2Cmeals to go. Oct 19, we supported the annual Crop Walk. Oct 26th, I hosted Trinity Dungeons & Dragons.
Personal: Qin went back to PLU the weekend of August 30th. Saturday Sept. 6th Jessica's family had a family reunion in Merdian that we enjoyed before the BBQ.
Synod: Met with Bishop Manlove and Dr. Moses Penumaka Sept. 25 to introduce me to an academic mentor, Kent Schaufelberger. We will meet weekly going forward. Completed TEEM courses on Pauline Epistles, Lutheran Polity, and Lutheran Confessions at PLTS, Berkeley, CA Oct 20-24. Coordinated with other first call ministers to lead closing worship at the upcoming Seabeck First Call Bishop's Retreat Nov 3-6.
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: Stewardship invited Penelope Smith, Bryce Quarve, and Marry Braudrick to share their personal experiences of following God's vision. Building upon September's call to share what we are grateful for, October asked that we have hope for the future and give trusting in where God will guide us all in our next year at Trinity.
Visits: Visited Marilyn Kirkness and Margaret Booth.
submitted by Vicar Aaron Carr.

MONDAY MIDWINTER MOVIES
Our thanks (again) to Tami Robinson for offering to host our film series in 2026. We gather on the Mondays between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday, arriving after 6pm, with shows starting at 6:30 pm. Our films tend to run for about 90-120 minutes. In 2026 we will have 6 films: our first on January 5th and our final on February 9th. With the recent death of film icon Robert Redford, we decided that we absolutely must show one Redford movie. Here's how you can help us: look at the following list of the Redford classics, select the one that YOU would most love to watch with us on a Monday. Let Penelope Smith know by text OR email OR a note in her church mailbox. Voting ends on Halloween 10/31 so (as with the November elections) you have just a few days to get your vote submitted.
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

GRATITUDE DISCUSSIONS
If enough people express interest in participating, we will hold a 2-week discussion series capping off our 2025 A Year of Gratitude. On Wednesdays November 5th and 12th, we will gather in the blue Koinonia 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. 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.

VETERANS DAY
On Tuesday, November 11, 2025, we honor and celebrate the courage, sacrifice, and service of all U.S. military veterans. Veterans Day is a time to reflect on the dedication of those who have served in defense of our nation and to express our deepest

gratitude. Whether through ceremonies, moments of silence, or acts of kindness, let us come together to recognize the heroes among us. Thank you, veterans, for your unwavering commitment to freedom and peace.

ADVENT DAILY DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET
Our deadline was on Monday, October 20th, so now begins the process of formatting, editing, printing, folding, collating and stapling. Our goal is to have hard copy versions in both regular and large print ready for distribution on November 23rd PLUS email you a pdf format (which is ideal for those who plan to read on their phones or computers, and for those who would like to share copies with out-of-area friends and family and avoid postage!). Our thanks to each of our authors and to Mary Braudrick for her art. This would not happen without you.

STEWARDSHIP
the Bob Torrey version. When I joined Trinity Lutheran in 2011, I came with a notion of "biblical stewardship" formed through my experiences at a variety of churches and with a variety of people who called themselves Christians. At Trinity, I was delighted to find a man called Bob Torrey, a church leader who had an amazing approach to stewardship. As a recipient of a lung transplant, Bob exuded an irrepressible gratefulness for the gift of life and a joy in pursuing whatever God had planned for him in the days that followed. When asked about stewardship, Bob's response was, "stewardship is everything that happens after I say 'yes' to God". How a Christian acts reflects on God. It is making our large and small decisions with God in the discussion. It's something that comes up literally dozens of times each day, in questions like, "what will people think of Jesus if I do _____?" and "how will all the moments of my life bring glory to the holy name of my Savior?" and "what exceptional thing can God empower me to do with His help?" Being with Bob was like watching WWJD (what would Jesus do?) in action! What a privilege to learn about stewardship from Bob and work with him on the Stewardship Team.
This is the time of year when committees start talking about budgets and we ask church members to commit to specific personal stewardship in the upcoming year (by volunteering our time, talents and financial treasures). It is tempting for churches to shift from a biblical concept of stewardship into an American corporate approach; accompanied by the wringing of hands and pleas for money to pay salaries and mortgages and utilities -- but largely ignoring the premise that Jesus' reason for the existence for "churches" has little to do with buildings and staff and much to do with ministries and acting like "Jesus with skin" in our world. Yes, there are financial realities that must be acknowledged, but the early church accomplished miraculous ministries and church growth without mortgages or utilities and with no paid staff. So, it is crucial to always keep "ministry" in mind and never forget that we can accomplish nothing without God's help and we can accomplish miracles with His help. (Penelope Smith)

HOW TO CHALLENGE CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM -- With the rise in calls for political violence against those who identify as progressive—and the growing pressure to marginalize anyone who does not share the narrowly defined faith of Christian nationalism—faith leaders in our community are coming together to respond. On Saturday, November 8th, there will be a free, one-day workshop that defines Christian nationalism from both political and theological perspectives and offers practical suggestions for how we can faithfully challenge white Christian nationalism in our communities. Drawing on the disciplines of biblical studies, theology, and peace studies, the workshop will explore realistic and effective strategies of nonviolent resistance within the context of faith communities. Topics covered will include: Defining White Christian Nationalism; Political Idolatry; Nonviolent Civil Resistance; Biblical Authoritarianism; and Theologies of Oppression. All this sounds pretty lofty, but don't feel intimidated. If you would like to know how to have more effective conversations with those whose stance on church and the country is different from yours, this is also for you! The workshop will be led by Mennonite seminary professor Drew Strait, author of Strange Worship. This event will be held at Boise First United Church of Christ, 2201 Woodlawn Avenue in Boise from 10am - 5pm on November 8th. Everyone is welcome, but in order to have an accurate head count for the refreshments and lunch that will be served at this free workshop, please register in advance at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-to-challenge-christian-nationalism-peacemaking-in-an-age-of-extremism-tickets-1645369557639?aff=oddtdtcreator

OFFERING ENVELOPES
A few households use small privacy envelopes to hold the checks or cash that they bring to church and put in the offering plate. If you would like a supply of those for 2026, please let Penelope Smith know.

PET BLESSING
On Wednesday, October 1st, we held our annual blessing of the animals on the church lawn. People brought their dogs, cats and guinea pigs (or photos of them). We had 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. Participants took home colorful “pet blessing certificates” with their pets' names on them (thanks, Jenny and Krista). Our thanks also to Bryce Quarve for setting up our sound system outside. There are pictures of this event on the church’s Facebook page.

TRINITY NEW HOPE
For the past 15 years we have fulfilled our purpose of providing clean and affordable housing. We have helped and brought hope to those who needed safe shelter. We still believe everyone in Nampa will have a clean, safe home in which to live. The sale was completed on October 20, 2025, and we sold it above appraised value. The new name is LEAP Trinity New Hope, Inc. We look forward to serving our neighbors in new and old ways. We can love them with our food baskets, and the way we have served them in the past. We will contact the property manager for LEAP to ensure that we have their blessings. Tami Romine has accepted this position. Thank you for prayers and support as we close one ministry and as Victor Aaron has stated we vision on what we can do next.

New Year’s Celebration

Join us for a joyful New Year’s celebration open to the entire family, as well as your friends

Potluck Dinner
We invite you to bring your favorite dish to share in our potluck meal

Location
Trinity Lutheran Church, located at 8 Midland, Nampa, ID 83651

Date and Time
Mark your calendars for December 31, 2025.
The celebration will begin at 6:30 PM and will continue until 10:00 PM

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 September - October 2024/2025

Date	Attendance	Date	Attendance
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
10/06	39	10/05	38
10/13	46	10/12	27
10/20	41	10/19	40
10/27	60	10/26	39

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 to Kristina Radke for helping organize Crop Walk this year.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the second God's Work, Our hands project. The first time 37 meals were served and the second time 28 meals were served.

Thank you to Thrivent for providing money for those God's Work, Our Hands meals!

Thank you, Penelope Smith, Bryce Quarve, and Mary Braudrick for sharing your Visioning Stories, and for Penelope Smith, Sarah Henthorn, and Phil Cronk, for organizing our Stewardship Journey into a Year of Visioning.

Thank you, Amanda Hanson, Sierra Armbrust, and Larry Mills for leading the Sunday school for Children and Youth at 9:00 am along with my adult Law & Gospel class. And thank you Larry for helping me host our Cluster's first joint Confirmation Class on October 5.

Thank you to Julie Haugen and the VanAtters for Organizing and leading a second round of Meals for God's Work Our Hands, and to everyone who came sand helped.

Thank you, Peggy Miller, the Carrs, and anyone who helped with Fall cleaning.

Thank you to the brave adventurers who dared to challenge the Goblin Forest, and to imagine, learn and play together with D&D on the 26th.

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	(thank you for all prayers of concern and healing)
	Paulette Blaseg	(recovering from receiving pacemaker)
	Glynis Calhoun	(healing from horse riding accident, surgery on Nov 5)
	Heather Baldini	(having hysterectomy surgery – Kristina Radke)

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)
For Jerry Radke	(has been moved to nursing home – Radke family)

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 November 2025

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

	November 02 All Saints Sunday/All Souls Day	**November 09** Pentecost 22	**November 16** Pentecost 23	**November 23** Christ the King	**November 30** Advent 1
Assisting Minister	Kim Mills	Kim Mills	Steve VanAtter	Steve VanAtter	Karissa Armbrust
Crucifer	Steve VanAtter	Abigail Radke	Cedar Hilger	Aldwin Kellar	Karson Hanson
Acolyte	Carl Radke	Aldwin Kellar	Karson Hanson	Aggie Klahn	Zander Radke
Reader	Sarah Henthorn	Sarah Henthorn	Abigail Radke	Penelope Smith	Kristina Radke
Children's Message	Steve VanAtter	Vicar Aaron	Sarah Henthorn	Vicar Aaron	Larry Mills
Music	Bryce Leifeste	Karissa Armbrust	Bryce Leifeste	Bryce Leifeste	Karissa Armbrust
Audio/Streaming	Lary Mills & Sarah Henthorn	Elizabeth Schnabel & Larry Mills	Elizabeth Schnabel & Bryce Quarve	David Sheriff & Bryce Quarve	Andrew & Karson Hanson
Greeters	Pay & Donna Benoit	Bentley/Hilger Family	Edith Hannett & Michala Mills	Radke Family	Karen Bair & **TBD**
Ushers	Radke Family	Pat & Donna Benoit	Lloyd & Judy Kellar	Penelope Smith & Michala Mills	Tami Robsinson & Elizabeth Schnabel
Altar Guild	Leininger	Millers	Kellars	Cathy Winwood	Beth Rasgorshek
Offering Counters	Andrew Hanson & Siera Armbrust	Phil Cronk & Lloyd Kellar	**TBD**	Sierra Armbrust & **TBD**	**TBD**
Fellowship	Margretta Spady & David Sheriff	**TBD**	Carr Family	**TBD**	**TBD**
Flowers	The VanAtters	Mary Braudrick	Hannett	The VanAtters	Greens--?
Wine Randy & Martha Miller	**Eternal Candle** Sharon Hurd	**Communion Bread** Julie Haugen	**Church Cleaning** Sharon Hurd		

Trinity Lutheran Church Calendar for **November 2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1. Office Closed All Saints Day
2. All Saints Sunday 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion 11 am Fellowship Time All Souls Day	**3.** Office 8:00 – Noon Vicar out of office	**4.** Office 8:00 – Noon Noon - Al-Anon 1-3 pm Study Group Vicar out of office	**5.** Office 8:00 – Noon Vicar out of office	**6.** Office 8:00 – Noon 6:30 pm Al-Anon Vicar out of office	**7.** Office Closed	**8.** Office Closed 9-11am Altar Guild
9. Pentecost 22 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion 11 am Fellowship Time	**10.** Office 8:00 – Noon	**11.** Office 8:00 – Noon Noon - Al-Anon 1-3 pm Study Group Veteran's Day	**12.** Office 8:00 – Noon 6:30pm Stewardship	**13.** Office 8:00 – Noon 6pm Learning Peace 6:30 pm Al-Anon	**14.** Office Closed	**15.** Office Closed
16. Pentecost 23 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion 11 am Fellowship Time 12-3 pm D&D Session	**17.** Office 8:00 – Noon **9:00 am Epistle Articles Due**	**18.** Office 8:00 – Noon Noon - Al-Anon 1-3 pm Study Group 7pm Church Council	**19.** Office 8:00 – Noon	**20.** Office 8:00 – Noon 2pm Advent Daily Devotional Booklet Assembly 6:30 pm Al-Anon	**21.** Office Closed	**22.** Office Closed
23. Christ the King 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion 11 am Fellowship Time Thanksgiving boxes Advent Daily Devotional Booklet Distribution	**24.** Office 8:00 – Noon	**25.** Office 8:00 – Noon Noon - Al-Anon 1-3 pm Study Group	**26.** Office 8:00 – Noon	**27.** Office Closed Thanksgiving	**28.** Office Closed	**29.** Office Closed
30. Advent 1 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion (Noisy Offering) 11 am Fellowship Time	**1.** Office 8:00 – Noon	**2.** Office 8:00 – Noon Noon - Al-Anon 1-3 pm Study Group	**3.** Office 8:00 – Noon	**4.** Office 8:00 – Noon 6:30 pm Al-Anon	**5.** Office Closed	**6.** Office Closed