

The Epistle

Trinity Lutheran Church

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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.

December 2025



Vicar's Article

Happy new year! Happy Advent! We have had a rollercoaster of a first liturgical year together and I give thanks to God and all of you for your continual love and support as we work and grow together here at Trinity. In

Advent we practice hoping, waiting, and watching for the return of Jesus Christ. This usually means a time of contemplation, recharging, and preparing for the joy of receiving the baby Jesus again into our lives at Christmas. But it can also mean being watchful, helping those around us, loving our neighbors and ourselves in preparation of Jesus breaking into our lives at the second coming, the end of this world, and the beginning of the Kingdom of God. Either way Advent calls us to prayers, contemplation both the spiritual and worldly, and to prepare our hearts to receive again Jesus. Let us all be lights in the darkness for one another and those we encounter in our daily lives outside these walls this Advent season. Love one another. Enjoy a soup supper and Holden Evening Prayer. Recharge your soul for the journeys ahead wherever they might lead us in this new year of visioning.

Vicar Aaron Carr (He/Him)



NEWS FROM CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES

This month we will be filling 5-6 Christmas food boxes for families in need in our community. Special visitors will be at trinity to share more about this; be sure to come to church on Sunday, November 30th or Sunday, December 07th to hear all about it from our guests!

DECEMBER NOISY OFFERING

On Sunday the 28th will be going towards assisting the senior citizen program through West Valley Animal Shelter. Many senior citizens are on a limited budget and struggle to pay their heating, power, and other bills in the winter while having enough money to buy food for their pets. Pets are an invaluable part of senior citizens' lives—they provide companionship that most folks would otherwise not have constantly. They are loved and give that love tenfold in return. Monies collected will be used to purchase cat and dog food for these senior citizens. If you prefer, you can purchase cat/dog foods and bring them into the church. Boxes will be in the Narthex for collection. Here are a few guidelines for your donations: All pet foods must be made in the USA; Only 5–10-pound bags (weight lifting restrictions for senior citizens); Small bags of cat litter; Gently used blankets are also needed. Thanks so much for caring!

OCTOBER NOISY OFFERING

For the Nampa Family Justice Center brought in \$402.96! This will go a long way in supporting what the NFJC does. Thank you all so very much!

DONATIONS BY VERSE

One of the readings for December 14th is from James 5:7. The verse talks about the patience the farmer has for the land to produce precious crops. Church in Community is asking that you bring in cans of vegetables for the pantry. Thank you!

EQUAL EXCHANGE

These products make great Christmas gifts for bosses, teachers, co-workers, family and friends. An Equal Exchange gift will give twice—it gives back to the farmers AND to the receiver. Oops, it gives THREE times! When you purchase an Equal Exchange item in November and December you will be entered into a drawing to win Equal Exchange goodies! Thanks to the many Trinity members who donated monies towards the raffles!

ENDING YEAR OF GRATITUDE – A great way to end our year of gratitude is to remember to be thankful to Trinity members for all their support (monetarily & physically through hard work) that helped with Church in Community projects this past year. Trinity has touched the lives of many in our community, and we are so incredibly grateful and thankful for this. – Church in Community

PASTOR'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2025

Cluster: No Cluster meeting this month.

Confessions went to Synagogue with Redeemer Boise hosting Friday Nov. 7th.

Committees: I met with Endowment on the 10th, Mutual Ministry on the 12th, and Church in Community on the 13th. Meeting with members of congregation to see who might be interested in leading the Visioning Team for next year along with me.

Congregational Activities: WAGM had a craft party on Nov 8th. Trinity D&D happened on October 26th and returned November 23rd. Trinity New Hope sold to LEAP New Hope on October 20th, and we were all invited to a LEAP Meet and Greet on Nov 19th.

Personal: Finished Fall TEEM class after last Council meeting and attended First Call Theological Education retreat at Camp Seabeck, Washington.

Synod: Continued biweekly meetings with my academic mentor Kent Schaufelberger. Attended Living the Resurrection Workshop on congregational visioning.

Tuesday Study Group: Group is still going strong on Psalms, but this last month with all of my weeks out of state I have not been there as much as I would have liked.

Worship: "Now the Feast" continued through November, and we enjoyed Reformation Day and All Souls each with all of their stunning visual

changes to the sanctuary and remembering those who have died and our tradition's roots in Martin Luther.

Visits: Regular shut-in visits to Helen Hatton, Marilyn Kirkness, and Margaret Booth October 29th.

submitted by Vicar Aaron Carr.

EPIPHANY CRAFT DAY

We will be hosting a craft day to cut and glue stars for Epiphany on December 6th from 9 – 11 am. Please come and be crafty with us!

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. Watch for our poster on the narthex window by the entrance doors

PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

This month marks the 84th anniversary of December 7, 1941—the day Pearl Harbor was attacked, taking the lives of more than 2,400 Americans and drawing our nation into World War II. Each year, we pause to honor those who lost their lives and those who bravely served in the aftermath. It's a reminder of resilience, sacrifice, and the importance of remembering our history. Let's take a moment or two this month to reflect and carry forward their legacy with gratitude.

ADVENT DAILY DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

Hard copies (both regular and large print) were handed out, starting on November 23rd. More will continue to be available in the narthex. Watch for an email from the church with an attached pdf version that you can read from your phone or tablet - and is a great way to share this with your out-of-town friends and family. And there will be a copy posted on the church website. Our first entry (thanks to Tammy Torrey) can be read on the first Sunday in Advent (11/30). Our thanks to each of our authors and to Mary Braudrick for her lovely color art on our covers.

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)

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 Vicar 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/enhronement 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 2:00 - 4:00 pm as we trek through the psalms together.

Statistical Comparison for October - November

2024/2025

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
10/06	39	10/05	38
10/13	46	10/12	27
10/20	41	10/19	40
10/27	60	10/26	39
11/03	39	11/02	34
11/10	46	11/09	41
11/17	41	11/16	37
11/24	60	11/23	31
11/00	00	11/30	(N/A)



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, Kim Mills, for organizing and to everyone who attended our Worship and Altar Guild Craft Day.

Thank you to all the Altar Guild for the many beautiful transitions this month with All Saints at the end of October and the transition into Advent.

Thank you, Penelope Smith and Sarah Henthorn, for your service on the Stewardship Committee through our fall 2025 campaign on Visioning.

Thank you, Peggy and Derryl Miller, for cleaning up all the leaves, Renee and Steve Van Atter for organizing the pantry, and Tami Robinson for unloading the dishes each week.

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

Thank you to the Hansons for proving the office with a computer monitor for the security camera system.

Thank you to Greg Keller for the new lighting in the Sanctuary and Narthex. Install and fixtures were donated.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the giving turkeys.

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)
Alex Witherspoon	(healing from traumatic brain injury – Amanda Hanson)
Eileen Warner	(Received pacemaker. Kristina Radke's Mom)
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)
Glynis Calhoun	(upcoming surgery – Mary Braudrick)
Shawn Houston	(upcoming surgery – Linda Dombeck)
Heather Baldini	(having hysterectomy surgery – Kristina Radke)
Heidi Baldwin	(health issues – Carr family)

For Andrew	(from Elizabeth Schnabel)
For Berger Family	(mourning loss of daughter from Mary Helen & Gail)
For Allissa Smiley	(mourning loss of husband Joe – Mary Helen)
For Family of Amy Bal	(died from pneumonia -- from Radke Family)
For Mitchell family	(mourning loss father Malcom – Mary Helen)
For Daughter in Iowa	(searching for Nurse Practitioner job – Mary B)
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)

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

Trinity Servants For December 2025

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

	December 07 Advent 2	December 14 Advent 3	December 21 Advent 4	December 24 Christmas Eve	December 28 Christmas 1
<u>Assisting Minister</u>	Karissa Armbrust	Pat Benoit	Pat Benoit		Mary Braudrick
<u>Crucifer</u>	Steve VanAtter	Karson Hanson	Cedar Hilger		Aldwin Kellar
<u>Acolyte</u>	Carl Radke	Aldwin Kellar	Zander Radke		Karson Hanson
<u>Reader</u>	Jeff Henderson	Tami Robinson	Margretta Spady		Amanda Hanson
<u>Children's Message</u>	Vicar Aaron	Karissa Armbrust	Vicar Aaron		Steve VanAtter
<u>Music</u>	Karissa Armbrust	Karissa Armbrust	Bryce Leifeste	Bryce Leifeste	Bryce Leifeste
<u>Audio/Streaming</u>	David Sheriff & Andrew Hanson	Karson Hanson & Andrew Hanson	Karson Hanson & TBD		Larry Mills & TBD
<u>Greeters</u>	Ardelle O'Bryan & Julie Haugen	Tami Robinson & Joyce Becht	Judy & Lloyd Kellar		Darrel & Peggy Miller
<u>Ushers</u>	Jeff & Nancy Henderson	Steve & Renee VanAtter	Darrel & Peggy Miller		Radke Family
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Kim Mills	The Benoits	Kristina Radke		Leiningers
<u>Offering Counters</u>	Darrel Miller & Lloyd Kellar	Edith Hannett & Bryce Quarve	Sierra Armbrust & Andrew Hanson	Cedar Hilger & Edith Hannett	Larry Mills & Lloyd Kellar
<u>Fellowship</u>	TBD	TBD	TBD		TBD
<u>Flowers</u>	TBD	TBD	Hellers / Greens -- ?	Poinsettias	VanAtters
<u>Wine</u> Henderson	<u>Eternal Candle</u> Henderson	<u>Communion</u> <u>Bread</u> Tami Robnison	<u>Church Cleaning</u> VanAtters		

Trinity Lutheran Church Calendar for **December 2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Office 8:00 – Noon	2 Office 8:00 – Noon	3 Office 8:00 – Noon 6:15 pm Soup Supper 7 pm Service	4 Office 8:00 – Noon	5 Office Closed	6 Office Closed 9-11 am Epiphany Stars Craft Day
7 Advent 2 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion 11 am Fellowship Time Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8 Office 8:00 – Noon	9 Office 8:00 – Noon Noon - Al-Anon 2-4 pm Study Group	10 Office 8:00 – Noon 6:15 pm Soup Supper 7 pm Service	11 Office 8:00 – Noon 2 pm Gospel & Growth 6 pm Learning Peace meeting 6:30 pm Al-Anon	12 Office Closed	13 Office Closed
14 Advent 3 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion 11 am Fellowship Time	15 Office 8:00 – Noon	16 Office 8:00 – Noon Noon - Al-Anon 2-4 pm Study Group 7 pm Church Council	17 Office 8:00 – Noon 6:15 pm Soup Supper 7 pm Service Blue Christmas	18 Office 8:00 – Noon 6:30 pm Al-Anon	19 Office Closed	20 Office Closed
21 Advent 4 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion 11 am Fellowship Time 12-3 pm D&D session	22 Office 8:00 – Noon 9:00 am Epistle Articles Due	23 Office 8:00 – Noon Noon - Al-Anon 2-4 pm Study Group	24 Office 8:00 – Noon 7 pm Service Christmas Eve	25 Office Closed Christmas Day	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed
28 First Sunday of Christmas 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion 11 am Fellowship Time Vicar Out of Office	29 Office 8:00 – Noon Vicar Out of Office	30 Office 8:00 – Noon Noon - Al-Anon 2-4 pm Study Group Vicar Out of Office	31 Office 8:00 – Noon Vicar Out of Office New Years Eve	1 Office Closed 6:30 pm Al-Anon Vicar Out of Office New Years Day	2 Office Closed Vicar Out of Office	3 Office Closed Vicar Out of Office

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