

# 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.*

## January 2026



### Vicar's Article

Merry Christmas to all and a second New Year! It is hard to believe it, but we are already here again, one year at Trinity Lutheran Church! I started here a year ago helping the children find the wise men and guide

them to the nativity scene, and making sure everyone got their Star Words for the year. Mine was "Obedience." I tried my best this last year to live and be present with everyone here in our Trinity Family, learning the congregation's traditions and preferences while trying not to change too much. Of course that means God had other plans for all of us and we have faced many changes together as a congregation: long time members have passed and been remembered, we have had to hand over one of our beloved and belabored missions, and we have all had a rough economic year even if our spiritual life together has been vibrant and hopeful. I do not know my Star Word yet this year, but for Trinity this year it is about Visioning, and that really means hope, faith, and love. A year of Visioning means that we all get to share our hopes for Trinity together out loud and dream big. A year of Visioning means that we all need to have faith that God hears our hopes and prayers and if we work with Him, we can do anything together through the grace of Jesus Christ. A year of Visioning means that we need to share our love for one another, our community here

at Trinity and look for ways to partner with the community around us to make our Visions of hope come true. Emanuel, Christ is with us and united in his love we can accomplish all things. Let us go forth boldly into this new year with our hearts and minds open to hope, faith and love for a year of Visioning.



### Vicar Aaron Carr (He/Him)



### NEWS FROM CHURCH AND COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES

Thanks to everyone who made it possible to put

together the Christmas food boxes that went to 6 families in need! Trinity made Christmas happen for these families!

### NOVEMBER NOISY OFFERING

Thanks to everyone for helping with November's Noisy Offering to support the Women and Children's Shelter. The following items were delivered: 3 scarves, 8 knit hats, 11 kids gloves, 19 kids PJ's, 2 kids dresses, 56 kids socks, 1 towel, 24 toothbrushes, 5 toothpastes, 9 flosses, 1 comb, 1 razor, 7 lady's hats, 17 lady's gloves, 15 lady's PJ's, 25 lady's socks, 5 lady's sweatshirts, 1 kids sweatshirt, 13 blankets, 8 bars of soap, 6 sticks of deodorant, 8 bottles of shampoo & conditioner, and 3 bottles of lotion. Included in this amazing donation were 157 pounds of salad greens from the Trinity Community Garden this summer! Check out the pictures on our Facebook page of the number of items donated to the shelter. They were very thankful!

## JANUARY NOISY OFFERING

Happening on the 25<sup>th</sup> will be in support of Vicar Aaron's Emergency Fund. These funds are used to purchase gas vouchers, pay utility or medical bills/medications. This fund helps him to assist those in need, within and outside of the church. Thanks so much for your generosity.

## DONATIONS BY VERSE

One of the readings for January 25<sup>th</sup> is from Matthew 4: 18-19. Jesus us recruiting disciples to follow him. He is going to make them fishers of men. Please bring canned proteins for the food pantry. Thank you!

## SAVE THE DATES

Thanks to Thrivent, Church in Community is able to do two more 2C Kitchen Collective meals. The Thrivent Cares Project will be on Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> and February 28<sup>th</sup>. Meals will be prepared in Trinity Kitchen, then packed, delivered, and handed out at Lloyd Square at 5:30 pm. If you are able to volunteer, cook, or hand out, please talk with a Church in Community member!

## ALL AROUND THANK YOU

Church in Community is so grateful to all Trinity members for their gracious support (monetarily and through hands on) for 2025. Trinity has touched the lives of many in our community!

## PASTOR'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2025

**Cluster:** Confirmation Class met Dec. 14th, so Abby stayed with us to decorate cookies.

**Committees:** I met with Endowment Dec 8th, WAGM craft party Dec 6th, Gospel & Growth Dec 11th, Executive Church Council met Dec 11th to work on Budget, and Trinity New Hope board had its closing meeting Dec 15th.

**Congregational Activities:** Nov 19th LEAP New Hope Meet & Greet. Soup Supper every Wednesday through Advent. A wonderful Christmas Pageant on the 14th with Cookie and Sanctuary decorating after.

**Personal:** I have had some ulcer and colon health issues this month, but other than some time with lower-than-normal energy I am responding well to treatment. We had a lovely Thanksgiving at my in-laws with Maxwell and My Brother in-law, smaller than every other year. Qin got back for winter break on Dec 12th, and it was great to see her and Max enjoying time with other youth at church Sunday after the pageant.

**Synod:** Met with academic mentor, Kent Schaufelberger Dec 4th. Jan. TEEM classes opened for registration in the first week of

December and I ordered my books for Lutheran Liturgy and Interfaith Dialogue.

**Tuesday Study Group:** I lead the Tuesday study group through Psalms. We have moved into Liturgical Psalms: Covenant Songs and Songs of Royal Coronations and weddings

**Worship:** Finished our Year of Gratitude with Christ the King Sunday leading into Thanksgiving. Started our Year of Visioning with an Advent of Watching, Waiting, and Renewal for Christ and Mission. Holden Evening Prayer service with Advent Wreath lighting on Wednesday nights Dec 3rd – 17th then Christmas Eve Dec. 24th.

**Visits:** Penelope Smith brought Advent devotionals and visited Helen Hatton, Marilyn Kirkness, and Margaret Booth at the end of November. submitted by Vicar Aaron Carr.

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## MONDAY MIDWINTER MOVIES

All are welcome to join us for one or all the movies in our 2026 film series. We will meet at the home of Tami Robinson, 818 W Oakmont Ave, Nampa. This is one block north of Iowa between 12<sup>th</sup> and Midland. Give her a call if you need more information (208)681-1480. We start the films at 6:30pm, and you are welcome to show up any time after 6pm to talk and snack, etc. Again, this year, we will have a sign-up sheet for treats (so they don't all show up on the same night!). Here are the films we plan to show (with more specific information on the poster in the Narthex and in each Sunday bulletin).

January 5<sup>th</sup>: *Nonnas* - 2025 - biographical comedy

January 12<sup>th</sup>: *Mary Magdalene* - 2018 - biblical drama

January 19<sup>th</sup>: *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* - 2019 - Tom Hanks as Mr. Rogers

January 26<sup>th</sup>: *Barefoot in the Park* - 1967 - top vote-getting Redford film

February 2<sup>nd</sup>: *Dogma* - 1999 - a fantasy comedy about angels on a mission

February 9<sup>th</sup>: *A Man Called Otto* - 2022 - Tom Hanks in a grumpy role

## ADVENT DAILY DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

Our deepest thanks to all who contributed toward the publication of this booklet. Mary Braudrick gave us the lovely artwork. To cover the 26 days of the booklet, we had entries from 9 current members of Trinity, 8 former members and friends of the congregation, and used devotions from prior years sent in by Sharon Jones and Di Seba. We printed 70 regular size and 5 large print hard copies of the booklet, sent a pdf version out to Trinity's email distribution list, and posted a copy on the church

website. We hope this booklet has brought you joy and a few Advent surprises!

## 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS CHEER

On Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am Trinity Lutheran will be hosting a Christmas co-ed potluck luncheon. Bring a salad or dessert to share. There will also be a white elephant gift exchange, so bring something fun if you would like to participate! No RSVP necessary, all are welcome!

## 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)

### 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 11<sup>th</sup>** 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>
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	30
12/01	46	12/07	38
12/08	67	12/14	50
12/15	50	12/21	36
12/22	56	12/28	(N/A)
12/29	49	12/00	00

**Endowment:** Jeff Henderson (25), Edith Hannett (26), Julie Ward (27)

**Memorial:** Kallie Ziemer (25), Joyce Becht (26),



**THANK YOU!**

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 Larry Mills, Sierra Armbrust, Mary Braudrick, and Pat Benoit from the Nominating Committee for all your help finding volunteers for 2026.

Thank you, to everyone on Altar Guild who went above and beyond to make this holiday season Holy and Beautiful.

Thank you to everyone who brought such wonderful soups and breads to share at our Soup Suppers and helped lead Holden Evening Prayer through Advent.

Thank you to all our committee and council members whose terms end this month: Larry Mills, Sierra Armbrust, Darrel Miller, Cathy Winwood, Jeff Henderson, and Kallie Ziemer. And thank you to all those who serve on the many committees that do not have terms. You all make the Mission of Trinity possible.



**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)

**Luther Heights Reps:** Janet Metzger & Cathy Winwood, Peggy Miller (27)

**Nominating:** Sierra Armbrust, Larry Mills, Pat Benoit

**Mutual Ministry:** Carl Radke, Jerry Armbrust, Bryce Quarve

**Synod Assembly Voting Members:** Jerry Armbrust & Cathy Winwood

## IN OUR PRAYERS

<b>For healing:</b> 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)
Michelle Dombeck	(health concerns – Linda Dombeck)
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)

<b>For Andrew</b>	(from Elizabeth Schnabel)
<b>For Berger Family</b>	(mourning loss of daughter from Mary Helen & Gail)
<b>For Allissa Smiley</b>	(mourning loss of husband Joe – Mary Helen)
<b>For Family of Amy Bal</b>	(died from pneumonia -- from Radke Family)
<b>For Mitchell family</b>	(mourning loss father Malcom – Mary Helen)
<b>For Daughter in Iowa</b>	(searching for Nurse Practitioner job – Mary B)
<b>For Shannon Miller</b>	(mourning loss of Pat Malloy, past member of Trinity)
<b>For Jane Leininger</b>	(mourning loss of mother – Gail Leininger)
<b>For Jerry Radke</b>	(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 January 2026

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

	<b>January 04</b> Christmas 2	<b>January 11</b> Baptism of Our Lord	<b>January 18</b> Epiphany 2	<b>January 25</b> Epiphany 3	<b>February 01</b>
<b><u>Assisting Minister</u></b>	Bryce Quarve	Mary Braudrick	Kim Mills	Bryce Quarve	
<b><u>Crucifer</u></b>	Abigail Radke	Steve VanAtter	Karson Hanson	Cedar Hilger	
<b><u>Acolyte</u></b>	Zander Radke	Carl Radke	Aldwin Kellar	Aggie Klahn	
<b><u>Reader</u></b>	Tami Robinson	Sierra Armbrust	Sierra Armbrust	David Sheriff	
<b><u>Children's Message</u></b>	Vicar Aaron	<b>TBD</b>	Vicar Aaron	Larry Mills	
<b><u>Music</u></b>	Karissa Armbrust	Bryce Leifeste	Karissa Armbrust	Bryce Leifeste	Karissa Armbrust
<b><u>Audio/Streaming</u></b>	Elizabeth Schnabel & Larry Mills	Elizabeth Schnabel & Bryce Quarve	David Sheriff & Bryce Quarve	David Sheriff & Andrew Hanson	
<b><u>Greeters</u></b>	Lloyd & Judy Kellar	Bentley/Hilger Family	Edith Hannett & Michala Mills	Radke Family	
<b><u>Ushers</u></b>	Tami Robinson & Michala Mills	Pay & Donna Benoit	Penelope Smith & Elizabeth Schnabel	Lloyd & Judy Kellar	
<b><u>Altar Guild</u></b>	Cathy Winwood	Leiningers	Darrel & Peggy Miller	Beth Rasgorshek	
<b><u>Offering Counters</u></b>	Edith Hannett & Phil Cronk	Darrel Miller & Lloyd Kellar	Cedar Hilger & Larry Mills	Edith Hannett & Phil Cronk	Edith Hannett & Bryce Quarve
<b><u>Fellowship</u></b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b><u>Flowers</u></b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b><u>Wine</u></b> Randy & Martha Miller	<b><u>Eternal Candle</u></b> Randy & Martha Miller	<b><u>Communion Bread</u></b> Judy Kellar	<b><u>Church Cleaning</u></b> Randy & Martha Miller		

## Trinity Lutheran Church Calendar for January 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Office Closed  <b>New Year's Day</b>	2 Office Closed  7 pm Spanish Pentecostal Service	3 Office Closed
<b>4 Christmas 2</b> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion 11 am Fellowship Time  1 pm Spanish Pentecostal Service	5 Office 8:00 – Noon	6 Office 8:00 – Noon  Noon - Al-Anon 2-4 pm Study Group	7 Office 8:00 – Noon	8 Office 8:00 – Noon  6:30 pm Al-Anon	9 Office Closed  7 pm Spanish Pentecostal Service	10 Office Closed
<b>11 Baptism of Our Lord</b> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion 11 am Fellowship Time  1 pm Spanish Pentecostal Service	12 Office 8:00 – Noon	13 Office 8:00 – Noon  Noon - Al-Anon 2-4 pm Study Group  7 pm Endowment Committee meeting (Koinonia Room)	14 Office 8:00 – Noon  6 pm Learning Peace meeting	15 Office 8:00 – Noon  2 pm Gospel & Growth  6:30 pm Al-Anon	16 Office Closed  7 pm Spanish Pentecostal Service	17 Office Closed
<b>18 Epiphany 2</b> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion 11 am Fellowship Time 12-3 pm D&D session 1 pm Spanish Pentecostal Service	19 Office 8:00 – Noon  <b>9:00 am Epistle Articles Due</b>  <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b>	20 Office 8:00 – Noon  Noon - Al-Anon 2-4 pm Study Group  7 pm Church Council	21 Office 8:00 – Noon	22 Office 8:00 – Noon  6:30 pm Al-Anon	23 Office Closed  7 pm Spanish Pentecostal Service	24 Office Closed
<b>25 Epiphany 3</b> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion (Noisy Offering) 11 am Fellowship Time  1 pm Spanish Pentecostal Service	26 Office 8:00 – Noon	27 Office 8:00 – Noon  Noon - Al-Anon 2-4 pm Study Group	28 Office 8:00 – Noon	29 Office 8:00 – Noon  6:30 pm Al-Anon	30 Office Closed  7 pm Spanish Pentecostal Service	31 Office Closed  4 pm 2C Kitchen Meals

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