

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.

February 2026



Vicar's Article

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you created each of us and know our call and purpose. In this time of discernment, we ask that your Holy Spirit abide in us and guide us. Show us how our passions energize us in your faithful

service. Guide us to all unite with your Holy Spirit in discovering new ways to preach and teach the Good News to everyone, witness your faith through actions and words, and accept and welcome all people. In the name of your Son, who called all to Christian life, Jesus Christ. Amen -Prayer for Visioning
February 18th, we celebrate Ash Wednesday, reminding ourselves that at our core we are God's creations created from dust and returned to dust. Our identity and mission begin and end in **God**. From this humbling vision inward, we will look at Jesus' vision for each of us **personally** as we wrestle in the wilderness. How can Trinity equip you to go out into the world equipped to fight the devil? Jesus will challenge us to imagine a spiritual practice where we call to and challenge our **families** and **friends** to bring them the Grace of God. What would a vision of our church inviting all your loved ones look like? Jesus breaks convention, to meet a Samaritan woman as equals, breaking down boundaries and offering Christ's radical welcome. For our **church family** to move from passively welcoming, tolerant, to actively welcoming, inviting diversity into faith. What could be our first step? Who do we talk to at the well? Jesus makes the blind man see, yet those who know and hold authority see this as a threat rather

than gift. How do we see Trinity reaching out into the **neighborhood**, providing the mission they need, and in a way that allows them to hear the Good News of Grace that comes with it? How will our vision proclaim the **Kingdom of God** to the world?

Vicar Aaron Carr (He/Him)



NEWS FROM CHURCH AND COMMUNITY LENTEN FOOD JOURNEY

Church in Community will be sponsoring a Lenten Food Journey for the 40 days of Lent. It will start February 18, Ash Wednesday, and end Maundy Thursday. Various food and non-food items will be collected and given to a community partner at the end of Lent. Watch for the calendar in the Narthex!

DECEMBER NOISY OFFERING

For pet food and supplies for senior citizen's pets brought in 21 bags, 12 pouches, and 3 cans of dog food; 20 bags and 48 cans of cat food as well as 10 bags of litter. There were also blankets, pillows and towels donated. Thanks very much for all your donations. This project helped senior citizens keep their beloved pets in their homes over the winter.

FEBRUARY NOISY OFFERING

On February 22nd, Will be going to Trinity Community Garden. This garden is maintained by Paulette Blaseg along with some wonderful volunteers. They oversee planning, planting, weeding, fertilizing and harvesting as well as delivering to sites in Canyon County. Monies from

this Noisy Offering will go to purchase seeds and other needs for the garden.

DONATIONS BY VERSE

We are going to be doing something a little different this month. Please bring toilet paper and toiletries for the food pantry. We are running low on those things, and they are so very necessary. If you also have trash bags and/or cleaning supplies you are willing to donate to the church for regular cleaning duties, that would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE

Thanks to Thrivent, Church in Community is able to do two more 2C Kitchen Collective meals. The 2nd Thrivent Cares Project will be on Saturday, February 28th. 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.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

The 8th of February is Super Bowl Sunday and the "Souper Bowl of Caring." The Souper bowl of Caring unites communities to tackle hunger using the energy of the Big Game. Its vision is to transform the Big Game into a nationwide movement inspiring peoples to give locally to make a collective impact on hunger. So, bring in a can of soup or \$1.00 and the donations will go into Trinity's food pantry.

PASTOR'S REPORT JANUARY 2026

Committees: January 5th, I met with Worship and music and we put the top four liturgies voted by the congregation into: Setting 4 for Lent & Advent; Now the Feast for Easter & Christmas/Epiphany; Tree of Life for the first half of Pentecost; and Dakkota Road for the second half of Pentecost. Music met on the 7th and planned through Pentecost. On Tuesday the 13th and Thursday the 15th I missed Endowment and Gospel & Growth due to the flu. I Joined council remotely on the 20th to verify that all reports from committees from those in attendance had been submitted for the annual report. Worship & Altar Guild met on the 24th and planned out Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost.

Congregational Activities: December 28th everyone enjoyed lessons and carols. New Years Eve Edith hosted a potlatch party for the congregation. Starting January 5th Tami started this year's Monday Midwinter Movie Series running every Monday night until Lent. January 18th Mary, Penelope and Kim led a eucharist around the work

and example of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. January 31st we had a good turnout once again for the 2C Kitchen bringing warm chili to over 40 homeless or hungry people living in Nampa.

Personal: After Christmas My family and I went for a vacation on the Oregon coast together to Seaside. It was a great time to relax, refresh, and stand in awe of the king tide. By the second week of January, I caught the flu bug that was going around. Instead of going to Aspin Springs, Colorado to spend the weekend with my kid brother and his fiancé for their bachelor party, I spent from the 13th through the 21st sick and mostly incoherent.

Synod: As part of my ongoing steps toward ordination, I had a TEEM session from the 26th through the 30th. Eight hours a day of classes for a week while I wrote up the Annual meeting agenda, invitation letter, coordinating printing and sending between Sarah, Jessica, and Karissa, and held several meetings with leadership, potential committee members, and church members with concerns ahead of the meeting. Each class can also come with 3 months of regular master's level prework to complete before class. This unit, I was given my prework the week before Christmas. This means that on my vacation and most days in the office I put in an extra 4-12 hours of study and paper writing for submission.

Tuesday Study Group: The Tuesday group continued through the Psalms nearly completing the run through liturgical Psalms. Next month they will finish with Wisdom and Torah Psalms.

Worship: The Season after Epiphany has been about preparing for visioning and getting hope from those who have dreamed and hoped before us in their service to God.

Visits: Penelope Smith visited Helen Hatton, Marilyn Kirkness, and Margaret Booth this month while I was at TEEM

submitted by Vicar Aaron Carr.

MONDAY MIDWINTER MOVIES

We are almost finished with our yearly Epiphany film series! We enjoyed the delightful "Nonnals", the thought-provoking "Mary Magdalene" and the lovely "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" and are eagerly anticipating our next three films. All are welcome to join us, so feel free to bring guests. Give Tami 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. The last film is on February 9th: *A Man Called Otto* - 2022 - Tom Hanks in a grumpy role.

ASHES ON THE GO & ASH WEDNESDAY

Our thanks to David Sheriff and Edith Hannett for braving the cold of a January garage in order to weld nails into crosses! These crosses will be handed out on February 18th to those who select the "drive-through" imposition of ashes option by driving through our parking lot, and to those who choose to attend the more traditional evening Ash Wednesday service in our sanctuary. These are a tangible reminder of the nails and cross used on Good Friday and an aid to our penitential journey through Lent.

HOSPITALITY

If you've noticed the fellowship hall looking nice lately, you aren't imagining it. "Thank you" to the individuals who have been setting up for fellowship. Two members of our congregation have volunteered to host regular Sunday Fellowship. There will be occasions when members of the congregation will want to host or celebrate, use the sign-up sheet and check the fellowship schedule. Fellowship time is about more than coffee—it is a key part of how we come together as a family, welcoming new faces and work to expand our congregation.

Thank you for making Trinity a place of welcome, Lee and Marilynn Jackson!

BLOOD DRIVE

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive held in the Fellowship Hall of the church on February 16th from 12:00 to 5:00 pm. Please come and support this drive, and share the event with your friends, family, neighbors and anyone else you feel you can!

Wednesday

Lent Soup Suppers and Service 2026

Lent soup suppers for 2026: Wednesdays 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25

There is a signup sheet in the narthex.

Please bring your soup or bread by 6pm, as we serve at 6:15 pm.

Evening service will follow at 7:00 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 2:00 - 4:00 pm as we trek through the psalms together.

Statistical Comparison for December - January

2025/2026

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Attendance</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Attendance</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 12/07 | 38 | 12/00 | 00 |
| 12/14 | 50 | 12/00 | 00 |
| 12/21 | 36 | 12/00 | 00 |
| 12/28 | 28 | 12/00 | 00 |
| 01/05 | 53 | 01/04 | 37 |
| 01/12 | 47 | 01/11 | 36 |
| 01/19 | 37 | 01/18 | 32 |
| 01/26 | 52 | 01/25 | 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

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), Julie Ward (27)

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

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



THANK YOU!

Thank you, Edith, for Kicking off the New Year with a party.

Thank you to everyone on the Worship and Altar Guild for creating and decorating with all the dazzling Epiphany stars.

Thank you to Tami for Hosting our Midwinter Movie Series graciously at her home.

Thank you to Mary, Penelope, and Kim for leading service while I was away for the 18th, and for Karissa and Sarah for helping in the office while I was out with the flu rather than vacationing. I appreciate all your continuing support in my first call and as I continue to complete my TEEM classes as we work together toward my ordination.

April 5, 2026

Easter Sunday Schedule

8:00 AM bring food to share

8:15 AM serving starts for Easter Brunch

9:00 AM Easter egg hunt:

10:00 AM Easter worship

IN OUR PRAYERS

For healing: Colton (Fran & Elwood's grandson – brain tumor)
Monica Perez (friend of Edith Hannett – in need of a kidney)
Alex Witherspoon (healing from traumatic brain injury – Amanda Hanson)
Cody (Youth with heart condition – Emily Bentley)
Addie (Teenage Crohn's disease – Cathy Winwood)
Michelle Dombeck (health concerns – Linda Dombeck)
Shawn Houston (upcoming surgery – Linda Dombeck)
Heidi Baldwin (health issues – Carr family)

For Andrew & Grandpa Norm (from Elizabeth Schnabel)
For Allissa Smiley (mourning loss of husband Joe – Mary Helen)
For Mitchell family (mourning loss father Malcom – Mary Helen)
For Daughter in Iowa (searching for Nurse Practitioner job – Mary B)

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

Trinity Servants For February 2026

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

| | February 01 Epiphany 4 | February 08 Epiphany 5 | February 15 Transfiguration of Our Lord | February 22 Lent 1 | March 01 Lent 2 |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <u>Assisting Minister</u> | Karissa Armbrust | Cedar Hilger | Cedar Hilger | Mary Braudrick | Mary Braudrick |
| <u>Crucifer</u> | Abigail Radke | Karson Hanson | Aldwin Kellar | Steve VanAtter | Cedar Hilger |
| <u>Acolyte</u> | Zander Radke | Aggie Klahn | Elizabeth Schnabel | Carl Radke | Zander Radke |
| <u>Reader</u> | Trent Glover | Amanda Hanson | Edith Hannett | Jeff Henderson | Steve VanAtter |
| <u>Children's Message</u> | Vicar Aaron | Karissa Armbrust | Vicar Aaron | Steve VanAtter | Vicar Aaron |
| <u>Music</u> | Karissa Armbrust | Karissa Armbrust | Bryce Leifeste | Bryce Leifeste | Karissa Armbrust |
| <u>Audio/Streaming</u> | Jessica Carr & Andrew Hanson | Andrew Hanson & Karson Hanson | Jessica Carr & Larry Mills | Elizabeth Schnabel & Larry Mills | Elizabeth Schnabel & Bryce Quarve |
| <u>Greeters</u> | Steve & Renee VanAtter | Jessica Carr & Cathy Winwood | Lee & Marilynn Jackson | Leiningers | Karen Bair & Penelope Smith |
| <u>Ushers</u> | Darrel & Peggy Miller | Tami Robinson & Michala Mills | Steve & Renee VanAtter | Nancy & Jeff Henderson | Radke Family |
| <u>Altar Guild</u> | Kristina Radke | Leininger | Judy & Lloyd Kellar | Darrel & Peggy Miller | Cathy Winwood |
| <u>Offering Counters</u> | Edith Hannett & Bryce Quarve | Cedar Hilger & Bryce Quarve | Larry Mills & Phil Cronk | Edith Hannett & Bryce Quarve | Andrew Hanson & Lloyd Kellar |
| <u>Fellowship</u> | Jacksons | Jacksons | Jacksons | Jacksons | TBD |
| <u>Flowers</u> | Leininger | Leininger | TBD | Greens | Greens |
| <u>Wine</u> Phil Cronk | <u>Eternal Candle</u> Phil Cronk | <u>Communion Bread</u> Beth Rasgorshek | <u>Church Cleaning</u> | | |

Trinity Lutheran Church Calendar for February 2026

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Epiphany 4 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion 11 am Fellowship Time 1 pm Spanish Pentecostal Service | 2 Office 8:00 – Noon 6:15 Mid-Winter Movie Groundhog Day | 3 Office 8:00 – Noon Noon - Al-Anon 2-4 pm Study Group | 4 Office 8:00 – Noon | 5 Office 8:00 – Noon | 6 Office Closed 7 pm Spanish Pentecostal Service | 7 Office Closed |
| 8 Epiphany 5 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion Souper Bowl of Caring 11 am Fellowship Time 1 pm Spanish Pentecostal Service | 9 Office 8:00 – Noon 6:15 Mid-Winter Movie | 10 Office 8:00 – Noon Noon - Al-Anon 2-4 pm Study Group | 11 Office 8:00 – Noon 6 pm Learning Peace meeting | 12 Office 8:00 – Noon 2 pm Gospel & Growth 6:30 pm Al-Anon | 13 Office Closed 7 pm Spanish Pentecostal Service | 14 Office Closed |
| 15 Transfiguration of Our Lord 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion 11 am Fellowship Time 12-3 pm D&D session 1 pm Spanish Pentecostal Service | 16 Office 8:00 – Noon 9:00 am Epistle Articles Due 12-5 pm Red Cross Blood Drive President's Day | 17 Office 8:00 – Noon Noon - Al-Anon 2-4 pm Study Group 7 pm Church Council | 18 Office 8:00 – Noon Ash Wednesday | 19 Office 8:00 – Noon 6:30 pm Al-Anon | 20 Office Closed 7 pm Spanish Pentecostal Service | 21 Office Closed |
| 22 Lent 1 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion (Noisy Offering) 11 am Fellowship Time 1 pm Spanish Pentecostal Service | 23 Office 8:00 – Noon | 24 Office 8:00 – Noon Noon - Al-Anon 2-4 pm Study Group | 25 Office 8:00 – Noon 6:15 pm Soup Supper 7 pm Evening Service | 26 Office 8:00 – Noon 6:30 pm Al-Anon | 27 Office Closed 7 pm Spanish Pentecostal Service | 28 Office Closed 10 am & 4:30 pm 2C Kitchen Meals |
| 1 Lent 2 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship and Communion 11 am Fellowship Time 1 pm Spanish Pentecostal Service | 2 Office 8:00 – Noon | 3 Office 8:00 – Noon Noon - Al-Anon 2-4 pm Study Group | 4 Office 8:00 – Noon 6:15 pm Soup Supper 7 pm Evening Service | 5 Office 8:00 – Noon 6:30 pm Al-Anon | 6 Office Closed 7 pm Spanish Pentecostal Service | 7 Office Closed |
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