



TLC Grapevine

January 2024

www.trinitybemidji.org

A Publication of Trinity Lutheran Church, Bemidji, Minnesota (218) 444-4441

Worship Services

9:00 am, Sunday

There are no Wednesday Services during vacancy

Sunday School (Sept - May)

10:30 am - 11:30 am



trinity3@paulbunyan.net

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| LCMS Article | 1 |
| Group Meetings | 2 |
| Annual Meeting Notice | 2 |
| In Case You Missed It | 3 |
| Sunday School Program | 4 |
| Advent Tea | 5 |
| LA/AG Christmas Party | 6 |
| TLC Preschool Christmas | 7 |
| Youth Christmas Party | 8 |
| Preschool Flooring Update | 8 |
| From the Elders | 9 |
| News & Announcements | 10 |
| Preschool News | 11 |
| Kid's Activity Page | 12 |
| Stewardship | 13 |
| Our Stewardship Report | 13 |
| Online Giving | 14 |
| Birthdays/Anniversaries | 15 |
| F.Y.I. | 16 |
| Bible in a Year | 16 |
| Monthly Calendar | 17 |

December 'Witness': The gift of children

December 4, 2023 / Reporter / By Roy Askins



In Psalm 127, Solomon declares: "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward" (Psalm 127:3).

Why are children so important? Why has God given them as a reward, an ongoing heritage from God?

There's no better time than Christmas to ponder this question. For the birth of Christ makes the birth of every child a blessing and a gift. The One through whom creation came into existence took on human flesh in the womb of His mother, the Virgin Mary.

And in her flesh, He grew. God — in the womb of a woman. What a mystery worthy of marveling. What a gift beyond our comprehension, the gift that confounds our every attempt to understand.

In that gift, Christ makes all births a miracle worthy of our marvel. It is no wonder the devil, the world and our sinful flesh have declared war on children; it's no wonder that they have launched a full assault on the gift of life. For, as the Rev. Jeffrey Hemmer writes in the December issue of The Lutheran Witness (LW), "No one hates children more than [Satan] does."

The December issue of LW takes up the blessing of children — both how they bless us and how we might bless them. For example, the Rev. Christopher Nuttelman discusses how parents and other family members can bless children in the home, providing both a biblical foundation and guidance on doing so.

The issue contains much more: reflections on becoming like a little child by Sarah Reinsel and Josh Pauling's thoughts on how Christ's birth subverts the spirit of our age.

Every child is a blessing from God. Period. No asterisks, footnotes or addendum. Christ makes all children gifts, good and gracious blessings of God.

"Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!" (Psalm 127:4-5).

GROUP MEETINGS THIS MONTH

❖ **Ladies Aid**

Ladies Aid will meet on Thursday, January 4th at 1:30 pm at the Church.

❖ **Trinity Afternoon Guild**

The Afternoon Guild will meet on Tuesday, January 2nd at 1:30 pm at the Church.

❖ **Men of Trinity**

Will meet on Monday, January 1st at 7:00 pm at the Church.

❖ **M.O.P.S.**

Will Meet on Tuesday, January 9th at 6:30 pm at the Church.

❖ **Hannah Circle**

Will meet on Thursday, January 11th at 1:30 pm.

❖ **Active Christian Fellowship**

ACF will NOT Meet in January. Their next meeting will be February 5th at 5:00 pm.

❖ **Altar Circle**

Will not meet in January, February or March.

❖ **Eunice Circle**

Will meet on Tuesday, January 16th at 9:30 am.

❖ **Christian Singles**

The Christian Singles will meet for lunch on Sunday, January 14th.

❖ **Happy Quilters**

The "Happy Quilters" meet on the 3rd & 4th Thursdays of each month at 9:00am at the church.



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 14th, 2024
10:30 am.

The Annual Reports will be available for review by Sunday, January 7th.



The Bemidji Park Rapids Zone Delegate Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16th at Trinity in Bemidji. It will begin at noon with a pot luck lunch followed by a meeting to include the following items on the agenda:

1. Spring Rally at Trinity church in Bemidji hosted by the Afternoon Guild with elections of zone president and zone treasurer on the agenda.
2. MN North District Convention June 3-5, 2024 at Cragun's Resort.

All zone members are invited to attend.

I . C . Y . M . I .

(IN . CASE . YOU . MISSED . IT .)

We had a Wonderful Christmas Season at Trinity this year! During this Advent & Christmas Season, the members of Trinity celebrated by collecting Mittens, Gloves, & Hats for the Homeless, Collected food for the Food shelf with the "Reverse" Advent Calendar, Celebrated with the Ladies Advent Tea and Several Christmas Parties, We kicked off the Advent Season with the TLC Preschool/Childcare Advent Meal and Program, We enjoyed the Sunday School's Christmas Program and a Trinity Christmas Concert, The Preschool/Childcare went caroling at Birchhaven, and we all enjoyed delicious Advent Suppers and Worshipped together! On the following pages are some of the highlights from this year's Christmas Time at Trinity....ENJOY!

Active Christian Fellowship Popcorn Balls

The Active Christian Fellowship met on December 11, 2023 at 4:00PM. The annual popcorn balls were made which were given to the children after their Christmas Program on Advent Wednesday December 13.

After making a little 'extra' for us; we had our monthly meeting. We planned our New Years Eve 'day party' for December 31, 2023. Potluck finger foods will be brought to enjoy after church and Bible Study. White elephant gifts will also be brought for others to 'enjoy'. We plan on some serious Whist and Pinnacle games. We invite and encourage members of the congregation to join us. There is always room for more players! See you there!



ACF Making Popcorn Balls



The Popcorn Man



Six Busy Hands

Ladies Aid Advent Meal

A '*Mac n cheese and hot dogs*' meal was provided by the Ladies Aid for the December 13th Advent Meal.

This was served prior to the Sunday School program.

We were happy to prepare this meal that ALL kids like - young and old.



Pictures of the Sunday School Program can be found on the Next Page.



Sunday School Christmas Program

The kids did a wonderful job!
And the BEST part was that
they all really enjoyed themselves 😊



CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM



I . C . Y . M . I .

(IN . CASE . YOU . MISSED . IT .)

Ladies Advent Tea



Advent Tea

Ladies Aid & Afternoon Guild Christmas Party

The Afternoon Guild and Ladies Aid met on December 7, 2023 at 6:00PM for their annual joint Christmas Party. There were 4 tables formally set for 33 LWML ladies and 5 guests. It was wonderful to know there were 4 mother /daughters attending. Darlene Petersen with daughter Margaret Richer, Roberta Otting with daughter Becky Theis, Carol Sorensen with daughter Ann Sorensen and De Larson with daughter Jody Stuck. A potluck meal was provided by the Ladies Aid. The Afternoon Guild provided the Program entitled "Anticipation". Vicki Ruzicka and Margaret Richer led the program in reading Christ's birth from the book of Luke. Ladies from the Afternoon Guild shared their childhood Christmas memories. Paul Maatz played piano for a time of Christmas singing. The Evening ended with door prizes given. A pleasant evening.



TLC Preschool Christmas Program & Advent Meal



Christmas at the Preschool/Childcare



Christmas Carols at Birchhaven



Exciting Bus Ride to Birchhaven



Learning to Make Christmas Candles for Mom & Dad

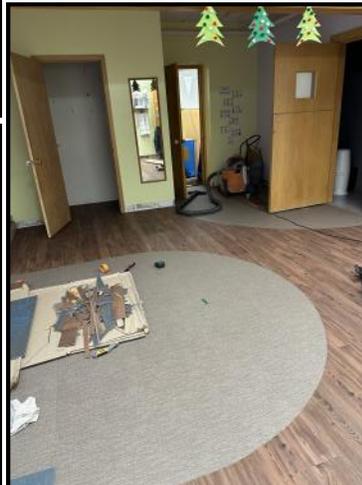
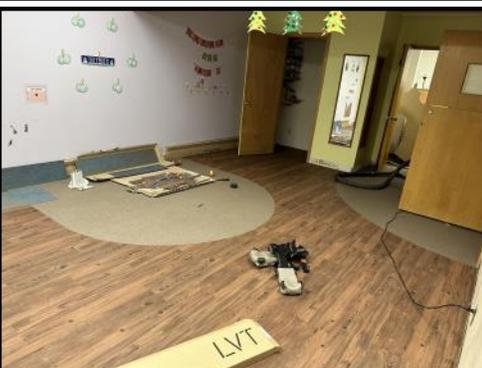
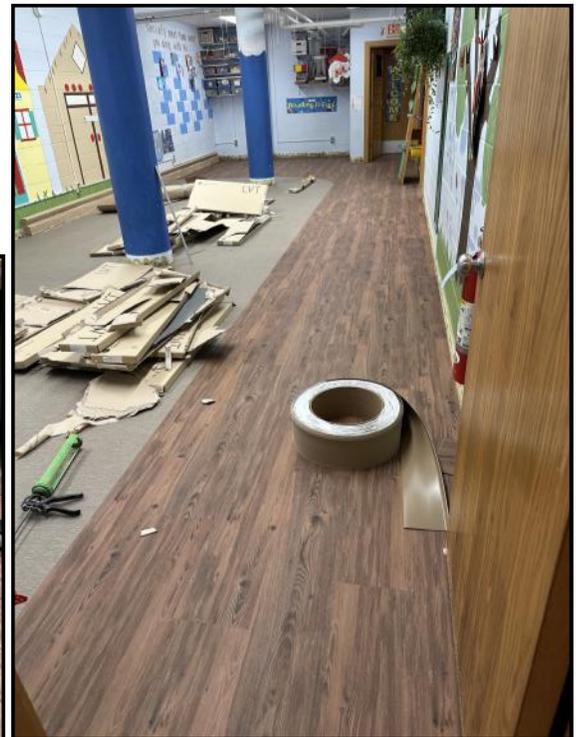
MERRY
Christmas

Youth Christmas Party

The Youth Group had a great time at their Christmas Party! They had lunch and lots of treats. And also did a white elephant gift exchange and made ornaments.



TLC Preschool/Childcare Flooring Project UPDATE



From the Elders

Dear Friends in Christ,

We pray that you have prayerfully considered attending this training session. This training is for elders but really is for those who wish to be leaders in their church. To learn how to prayerfully and thoughtfully make decisions that will impact all of our members. To help us lead with Christ's guidance.

Plans are well under way for our meeting on Saturday, January 20, 2024. We will meet at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bemidji. We plan on starting at 9 am and go until 4 pm.

We will have am and pm snacks and drinks (water, pop, coffee). We are also planning on a noon meal. We will also have the power point printed for you.

We need to know the number of attendees as soon as possible for planning. Please let the office know if you are able to attend. Please encourage each other to attend.

Blessings to all of you.

Thank you, Paul Borslien, Council Secretary/Elder



NOMINATIONS

Trinity Lutheran Church will have its Annual Meeting on January 14, 2024 after church beginning about 10:30 am. Wow, another busy year has passed. It is also hard to think that we have been without a Shepherd for this past year.

It is also time to elect new board members, church president and elders. We ask our congregational members to prayerfully and thoughtfully think of serving on one of these positions. If you know of someone whom you feel would do a wonderful job, please encourage them to prayerfully and thoughtfully consider placing their names on the ballot. Each board will help you with training.

There is also a special "Elder" training on January 20th at the church. This training is open to all men who are past, present and/or future elders.

The following positions will be open: President, Treasurer, School Board, Board of Education, Trustee, Stewardship, Board of Missions, Youth Board, and Elders. Terms are for one to two years.

If you are interested in having your name placed on the ballot or nominate someone, please contact Marty at the church.

Get **IN**volved

**ANNUAL
MEETING**

Sunday, January 14th, 2024 at 10:30 am

News & Announcements

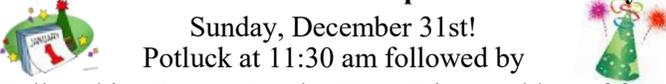
THE BATTLE CONTINUES...



Join the **March for Life**
 Saturday, January 20, 2024 12:00 Noon
 Beltrami County Courthouse

- Bring your own sign (some signs will be provided)
- Invocation and Speakers Before and After the March
- Soup and Sandwiches will be served following at St. Philips Social Hall

The Active Christian Fellowship New Years Party!
 Sunday, December 31st!
 Potluck at 11:30 am followed by Fellowship, Games, Snacks, Door Prizes and lots of fun!




The Church Office will be closed on January 1st -2nd for New Years!

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 14th, 2024
10:30 am.



January 20th
9:00am - 4:00pm
Trinity Lutheran Church

Lutheran Island Camp UPCOMING EVENTS



JANUARY 19-20

Confirmation Weekend

Register your Confirmands for a weekend of fun and instruction at LIC! You take care of the Confirmation instruction and we take care of the fun! The cost is \$90/person which includes food, lodging, and activities. For more information, and to register, contact Olivia at licprogram@islandcamp.org.

JANUARY 24-28

Quilt & Crafting Retreat

Quilters and crafters, do you need a place to get away and get some crafting done? Then look no further than our Quilt Retreat! Food, lodging, and evening devotions are provided by the LIC staff.

FEBRUARY 16-17

Confirmation Weekend

Register your Confirmands for a weekend of fun and instruction at LIC! You take care of the Confirmation instruction and we take care of the fun! The cost is \$90/person which includes food, lodging, and activities. For more information, and to register, contact Olivia at licprogram@islandcamp.org.

MARCH 8-10

Men's Weekend

Dr. David Coe is our speaker for the 2024 Men's Weekend! He is a theology professor at Concordia University NE and the author of the book "Provoking Proverbs: Wisdom and the Ten Commandments". You won't want to miss this weekend full of theological learning, fellowship, and fun! More details, including the schedule, will be posted in the coming months. Cost to be determined.

MARCH 15-16

Confirmation Weekend

Register your Confirmands for a weekend of fun and instruction at LIC! You take care of the Confirmation instruction and we take care of the fun! The cost is \$90/person which includes food, lodging, and activities. For more information, and to register, contact Olivia at licprogram@islandcamp.org.



Growing Tree

JANUARY 2024

Learning Center & TLC

Preschool Newsletter

SCHOOL CLOSINGS:

Childcare:

Jan. 1st & 2nd

Preschool:

Jan. 1st & 2nd



Bible Verse of the Month:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; The old has gone and the new has come!

2 Corinthians 5:17

Learning Center and Preschool News

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2023-2024

Registration forms are available in the Preschool office. Please see Danielle for Preschool forms and/or questions regarding preschool.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Christmas Program was a huge success! The children had a great time and did a wonderful job!!! Thank you to all the families for participating during the busy holiday season.

COLD WEATHER REMINDER

Please remember to send winter clothes daily.

We go outside everyday the temperature/wind-chill is above zero.

Please label **ALL** of your child's winter apparel.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2024

NEW FLOORING UPDATE

The new flooring has been installed! What a great new look for our Center!

New INSIDE



Geodes look plain on the outside but contain beautiful crystals. Create these "rocks" to show how God makes us new on the inside.

What you need:

- Clean cardboard egg carton
- Scissors (and adult help)
- Epsom salt
- Plastic zippered bags (one per color of dye)
- Food coloring
- Glue
- Paintbrush



What you do:

1. Cut out the tops and bottoms of all the egg compartments so you can make 6 ball shapes.
2. In each bag, put 3 tablespoons of Epsom salt and a drop or two of food coloring. Seal and shake to mix.
3. With the paintbrush, spread glue inside two egg-carton halves. Sprinkle a spoonful of Epsom salt into those halves. Then close and shake.
4. Open your homemade geode and shake out excess salt.
5. Optional: Preserve the crystals with a coat of clear-drying glue.



Activity Page



HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

| JANUARY 2024 | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | God | night | word | in | love | Jesus |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| glory | therefore | speak | give | light | Christ | a |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| saw | beginning | anyone | waters | help | is | many |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| he | again | through | earth | made | while | back |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |
| new | if | and | creation | | | |

The second Monday _ _ _ _ _

The last Monday _ _

The 16th _ _ _ _ _

One day before the 20th _ _

The day before the first Friday _ _

The last weekday of the second week _ _ _ _ _

The day after the 20th _ _

The day after 18th _ _

The first day of the second weekend _

The last Sunday _ _ _

The last day of the month _ _ _ _ _

Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

JANUARY STEWARDSHIP

The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, “Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land” (Eph. 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:37–39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table, ahead of “you shall not murder”? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us and teaches His Word to us through our parents.

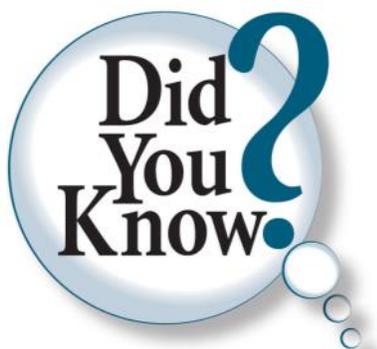
So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



| <u>Monthly Receipts/Expenses</u> | <u>November 2023</u> |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| General Fund Receipts | \$21,732.76 |
| PS/CC Receipts | \$18,976.47 |
| Interest Receipts | \$39.85 |
| (Transfer to Money Market) Adjustments | -\$10,000.00 |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | \$30,749.08 |
| TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES | \$53,794.54 |
| OVERAGE/SHORTAGE | Monthly +/- (-\$23,045.46) |



YOU CAN NOW GIVE YOUR TITHE OR OFFERING ONLINE?!

It's Easy, just follow these steps...

1. Visit Trinity's Website at www.trinitybemidji.org.
2. Click on "Donate" at the top right of the Home Page.
3. Fill out the form on the Donation Page and click "DONATE" when you are finished.
4. You will now be directed to our PayPal page. Once there, you can either Log In to your existing PayPal account **OR** if you don't have an account just click "Continue" under the heading "Don't Have A PayPal Account?"
5. From here you just complete using your credit or debit card information and submit.

The Benefits Of Online Giving

STEWARDSHIP

You have the option of giving a one time gift, or having your tithe post monthly.

CONVENIENT

You can continue to support Trinity even if you are away on vacation or gone for the winter.

FLEXIBILITY

You can give to the General Fund or choose to give to a specific Ministry of the church.

If you would like help in learning how make your donation or tithe to Trinity online, just stop in to the office, we are happy to help.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1 Dennis Frederikson

3 Theodore Lang
Leah Blocker

4 Adam Maatz

6 Owen Potratz, Barbara Wolbeck

8 Tania Kührke

9 Hayden Schuette

10 Alyssa Koebke

12 William Lohse

14 Amy Koebke

16 Kathy Fulk
Dean & Gayle Christensen (9)

17 James Branham
Rev. Daniel & Linda Domke (51)

18 Lillian McNamara

19 Sandy Thorson

21 Beverly Parobek
David & Carole Holmes (57)

23 Randy & Darla Yarbrough (40)

26 Steve & Mary Krueger (20)

28 Ben Lang

29 Matt Haas

30 Judy Anderson



ALTAR FLOWER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!



Please sign up to tend the Altar Flowers. We still need volunteers for 2024!



ADDRESS/PHONE

If your address and/or phone number changes, please let the church office know, so your information will be correct in the church database. Thank you!



extra*extra
LARGE PRINT EDITION AVAILABLE

LARGE PRINT bulletins are available for those that have difficulty with the regular bulletin. If you would benefit from having one of these bulletins, please ask an usher for a copy.

If you are interested in being a Greeter or an Usher, please speak with one of the Elders.



WHEN YOU LEAVE GOD'S HOUSE, please turn out ALL the lights (except in the office hallway) and please check that ALL the entrance doors are LOCKED, even if you didn't unlock them.

Greeting Cards Available!



Individual Cards are \$1.00 each. Boxed cards are priced on bottom. Checks are preferred. Please make your checks out to Trinity Ladies Aid and put your payment in the container provided. Thank you.

Check out the "RESOURCE TABLE" in the Fellowship Hall for FREE Books, Periodicals, Devotionals, and More.



Portals of Prayer are in the basket at the back of the sanctuary.



ALTAR CIRCLE

The first Sunday of Epiphany commemorates the visit of the Wise Men to the infant Jesus and the second Sunday observes the Baptism of our Lord. Therefore, the paraments are white, the color of purity and eternity.

The remaining Sundays after the Epiphany have green paraments. The last Sunday after the Epiphany is again white for the Transfiguration of our Lord. The emphasis for the whole season of Epiphany is on the self-revelation of God to the world.

BEMIDJI AREA FOOD SHELF

Trinity, along with United Methodist Church volunteer the 1st Monday of each month at the Food Shelf. The first shift is from 9am-12pm and the second shift is from 12-3:30pm. Both shifts need 6-7 volunteers.



The Food Shelf would not function without all the volunteers who give of their time. Thank you for all you do to help the Food Shelf run smoothly. ~June Roxstrom

Check out our website.
www.trinitybemidji.org



LOOK Please check the covered bulletin boards in the Church Entrance Hall for posted Letters, Community Events, Concerts, Meals, Fundraisers, local activities and news.

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - JANUARY

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 Luke 1:68-79 | 9 Psalm 37 | 17 Psalm 45 | 25 Psalm 53 |
| Mark 2 | Mark 10 | Genesis 7-9 | Genesis 31-33 |
| 2 Psalm 30 | 10 Psalm 38 | 18 Psalm 46 | 26 Psalm 54 |
| Mark 3 | Mark 11 | Genesis 10-12 | Genesis 34-36 |
| 3 Psalm 31 | 11 Psalm 39 | 19 Psalm 47 | 27 Psalm 55 |
| Mark 4 | Mark 12 | Genesis 13-15 | Genesis 37-39 |
| 4 Psalm 32 | 12 Psalm 40 | 20 Psalm 48 | 28 Psalm 56 |
| Mark 5 | Mark 13 | Genesis 16-18 | Genesis 40-42 |
| 5 Psalm 33 | 13 Psalm 41 | 21 Psalm 49 | 29 Psalm 57 |
| Mark 6 | Mark 14 | Genesis 19-21 | Genesis 43-45 |
| 6 Psalm 34 | 14 Psalm 42 | 22 Psalm 50 | 30 Psalm 58 |
| Mark 7 | Mark 15-16 | Genesis 22-24 | Genesis 46-48 |
| 7 Psalm 35 | 15 Psalm 43 | 23 Psalm 51 | 31 Luke 1:68-79 |
| Mark 8 | Genesis 1-3 | Genesis 25-27 | Genesis 49-50 |
| 8 Psalm 36 | 16 Psalm 44 | 24 Psalm 52 | |
| Mark 9 | Genesis 4-6 | Genesis 28-30 | |

January 2024

Trinity Lutheran Church - 444-4441

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|--|-----------|---|
| | 1 7:00 PM Men of Trinity | 2 1:30 PM Trinity Afternoon Guild 6:00 PM Bell Choir | 3 | 4 1:30 PM Ladies Aid 5:30 PM Board of Elders | 5 | 6  EPIPHANY |
| 7 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Sunday School <i>Ladies Aid Serves</i> | 8 | 9 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM M.O.P.S. | 10 4:15 PM 7th Grade Confirmation 4:45 PM 6th Grade Confirmation | 11 1:30 PM Hannah Circle | 12 | 13 |
| 14 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Annual Meeting 10:30 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Christian Singles  <i>Youth Groups Serve</i> | 15  | 16 9:30 AM Eunice Circle 12:00 PM LWML Zone Delegate Board Meeting 6:00 PM Bell Choir | 17 4:15 PM 7th Grade Confirmation 4:45 PM 6th Grade Confirmation | 18 9:00 AM "Happy Quilters" | 19 | 20 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Elder's Training Event 9am - 4pm </div> |
| 21 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Sunday School <i>Men Serve</i> | 22 | 23 6:00 PM Bell Choir | 24 4:15 PM 7th Grade Confirmation 4:45 PM 6th Grade Confirmation | 25 9:00 AM "Happy Quilters" | 26 | 27 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Leadership Training Event 9am - 12pm </div> |
| 28 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Sunday School <i>Evening Guild Serves</i> | 29 | 30 6:00 PM Bell Choir | 31 4:15 PM 7th Grade Confirmation 4:45 PM 6th Grade Confirmation |  | | |