



TRINITY TIDINGS

612 North Water Street - Sparta, Wisconsin 54656 Tel. 608-269-5081 Website: www.tlcsparita.org

God's Love-Our Hearts-God's Work-Our Hands

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOSH...



Grace and Peace to you,

As December unfolds, we enter a season marked by wonder, waiting, and holy anticipation. Advent invites us to pause amid the busyness and prepare room in our hearts for Christ's coming. It is a gentle reminder that even in the coldest and darkest days, God's light continues to grow.

Martin Luther once wrote, *"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."* Though winter lies before us, Luther's words remind us that God's promises often rest quietly before they bloom. This is the essence of Advent—trusting that unseen things are already unfolding by God's hand.

Children have a way of teaching us Advent spirituality.

Their sense of wonder, their unguarded joy, their eager anticipation—all these qualities mirror the posture Christ invites us to adopt. Children don't merely hope; they expect. They don't just wait; they watch with wide-eyed trust that something good is coming. Their excitement at the lights, the music, the story of a baby in a manger mirrors the very heart of this season.

This season invites us to wait—not passively, but faithfully.

To watch—not anxiously, but attentively.

To prepare—not frantically, but prayerfully.

And it reminds us that Christ comes not only in the bright moments but also in the humble and hidden ones. Luther emphasized the surprising nearness of God: *"God is present everywhere, but He is especially near to the broken-hearted."* As we move through December, may we look for Christ in the overlooked places—in the person who needs a kind word, in the neighbor who feels alone, in the child whose joy rekindles our own.

If you are entering this month with joy, may you share it generously.

If you carry burdens or grief, may you feel Emmanuel, "God with us," beside you with compassion and strength.

And if you find yourself somewhere in between, may the quiet promise of Advent steady your heart.

Let us embody the hope we proclaim. Let us check on one another, practice patience in a hurried world, and offer comfort to those who struggle. In doing so, we live out Luther's conviction that faith is always active in love.

Blessings,

~PJ



MISSION MOMENT

Mission Moment:

Did you know?

ELCA Good Gifts Program

Gifts that make a difference.....

*By shopping the **ELCA Good Gifts** catalog this Christmas, you can choose meaningful gifts in honor of loved ones while sharing the love of Christmas with those in need.

*What are ELCA Good Gifts?

ELCA Good Gifts are a creative, meaningful way to support the ministries of the ELCA. The items in the **ELCA Good Gifts** catalog lift up examples of work being done in different projects and programs currently supported through ELCA churchwide ministries: the ELCA Fund for Leaders, ELCA Global Church Sponsorship, ELCA New Congregations, ELCA Vision for Mission, ELCA World Hunger, Disability Ministries and Lutheran Disaster Response.

*How does this work?

When you give an ELCA Good Gift you are supporting work within a specific category of ministry. For example, when you give a gift to “stock a health clinic,” your donation goes on to support the health care ministries of ELCA World Hunger where needed most. This allows our global companions to determine how these funds can make the biggest impact in their local contexts, and ensure that our work is sustainable.

1. CHOOSE YOUR GIFT

Browse the catalog and select from more than 50 gift-giving options. Choose the gifts that mean the most to you or choose gifts in honor of friends or loved ones.

Online [ELCA.org/goodgifts](https://www.ELCA.org/goodgifts)

2. ANNOUNCE YOUR GIFT

If you give online, you can print, mail, or download a card to share with your loved one at Christmas.

Your gift makes a difference in their lives and in the world. Your donations support long-term, sustainable solutions that ensure that these good gifts last for more than a couple of days or weeks. They keep on giving for years to come.

Learn more at www.ELCA.org/goodgifts

*Check out the Goodgifts tree in the hallway by the church office. Feel free to take ornaments or cards if you have given online.



DECEMBER DEVO

DECEMBER Bible Challenge – who wants to join Michelle?J

Our Bible Challenges have been going great, & we are going to continue for the month of December. Text Michelle (343-0324) or e-mail her at: [**thehyattfive@gmail.com**](mailto:thehyattfive@gmail.com) if you'd like to participate in the challenge of digging deeper into God's Word throughout the month. Our theme will focus on the story of Jesus' birth, His teachings, & some of your favorite Bible verses. Michelle will send some key points with discussion questions, & you'll be asked to share your thoughts. It's a great way to stay connected to God on a daily basis.

Monday, 12/1: Matthew 1:18-25
Tuesday, 12/2: Matthew 2:1-6
Wednesday, 12/3: Matthew 2:7-12
Thursday, 12/4: Luke 2:1-7
Friday, 12/5: Luke 2:8-14
Saturday, 12/6: Luke 2:15-20
Sunday, 12/7: Luke 6:28
Monday, 12/8: 2 Corinthians 5:7
Tuesday, 12/9: Philippians 4:13
Wednesday, 12/10: Psalm 23
Thursday, 12/11: Exodus 14:14
Friday, 12/12: Isaiah 41:10
Saturday, 12/13: Psalm 18:2
Sunday, 12/14: 2 Corinthians 12:9
Monday, 12/15: Ephesians 2:10
Tuesday, 12/16: Jeremiah 24:7
Wednesday, 12/17: Job 42:2
Thursday, 12/18: Isaiah 55:8-9
Friday, 12/19: Psalm 27:1
Saturday, 12/20: 2 Samuel 22:33
Sunday, 12/21: Matthew 18:20
Monday, 12/22: John 8:12
Tuesday, 12/23: Deuteronomy 31:8
Wednesday, 12/24: Ephesians 4:31-32
Thursday, 12/25: Hebrews 10:24-25
Friday, 12/26: James 1:12
Saturday, 12/27: Ecclesiastes 3:11
Sunday, 12/28: Zephaniah 3:17
Monday, 12/29: Isaiah 58:11
Tuesday, 12/30: Matthew 11:28
Wednesday, 12/31: Galatians 4:4-5

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TRINITY...

DECEMBER "ALL ARE WELCOME (AAW)" Meals Join us anytime from 5:30 – 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall!

We would love to see you!

Wednesday, 12/3: BBQ & sides

Wednesday, 12/10: Taco Boats & fruit

Wednesday, 12/17: Loaded Tator Tots

Kriskindlmarkt 2025 Update

We are partnering with our Sparta Lions Club the weekend of Friday, 12/12 & Saturday, 12/13, to volunteer at their booth serving a variety of food. Adult & youth positions are available for the following shifts:

Saturday, 12/13: 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (1 adult & 3 teenagers – one at least 14 years old & 2 at least 16 years old)

Saturday, 12/13: 12:30 – 5:00 p.m. (1 adult & 2 teenagers – at least 16 years old)

Saturday, 12/13: 4:30 – 8:30 p.m. (1 adult & 1 teenager – at least 16 years old)

Team Trinity, here we come! Please reach out to Michelle to get signed up for a shift!

K-LOVE ROCKS!! Positive, Encouraging

Tune in at 100.1, or get the app on your phone! I promise listening to it will make your day better! In our highs & lows, this Christian, positive & encouraging radio station is the BEST!! After you listen, please let Michelle know what has become one of your favorite songs. We'd like to start incorporating some of them into various happenings here at Trinity!

Positive & encouraging challenges each week (From K-LOVE & Michelle): **GO MAD Monday** – go out and make a difference for someone. How are you going to show kindness? **Take Time for God Tuesday** – spend 5 minutes of intent time with God. **Welcome Wednesday** – reach out to make someone feel welcome. **Thankful Thursday** – what are you most thankful for right now? **Feel Good Friday** – How has someone made you feel better? How have you made someone's life better? **Share a Smile Saturday** – bring a smile to someone who needs it today. **Spread a little Sunshine Sunday** – sprinkle some sunshine on someone who is need God's love.



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Who Doesn't Love a Bake Sale?

SAVE THE DATES!!

Sunday, December 14 &

Sunday, December 21



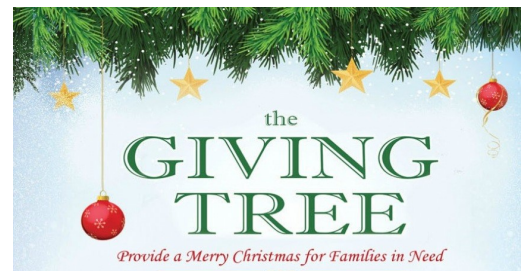
Our youth will be hosting a Christmas Bake Sale on Sunday, December 14 & Sunday, December 21. It will be held each Sunday after 9:00 a.m. worship in the hallway outside of the main office as well as the Youth Room. Come check out the variety of goodies & snacks. If you would like to donate something, please let Michelle know. We are asking that everything be pre-packaged on plates of 6 or 12 items. Thank you for your continued support!

Trinity Cares Giving Tree

God's Love—Our Hearts. God's Work—Our Hands.

Our annual tradition of our "Trinity Cares" Giving tree is displayed outside the nathex. This special tree will be full of ornament tags representing families in our community that could use a "hand up" this Christmas season. Please be kind, take one or more tags, & enjoy the feeling of being a blessing to shop for the item(s) requested. Return it—UNWRAPPED—to the tree area. Not a shopper? Feel free to drop off a monetary donation in church office, & let our Trinity Youth do the shopping for you. There are also tags that request gifts cards, & those should be returned to the main office.

Please be sure to attach the original tag with your gift for easier sorting. We would appreciate ALL gifts to be returned by Wednesday, December 17th in order to give our youth time for wrapping presents to get them out for delivery before Christmas. Please contact Missy or Michelle if you have any questions. Thank you for reaching out with loving hearts & helping hands to model Jesus & His love for ALL of us!



Trinity Lutheran Church Report of the Treasurer 10/31/2025

Average giving per week this month: \$5,147.35

Annual Budget: \$362073; needed each week to meet budgeted expenses: \$6963

General fund:

Balance 9/30/2025	\$9,863.21
October Giving	\$20,589.40
October Disbursements	(\$21,138.10)
Misc entries	\$0.00
Balance 10/31/2025	\$9,314.51

Total Giving:	BUDGET	Non-budget
October	\$20,589.40	\$7,323.43
Total	\$20,589.40	\$7,323.43

1st Community Credit Union:

We are debt free!

Designated Funds: Balances as of 10/31/2025:

Total Withholding	\$2,107.36
Total Pass-through Amounts	\$259.27
Prepaid pledges	\$0.00
General Fund	\$9,314.51
Money Market Savings Account	\$583.20
Building Capital Fund	\$16,631.07
Memorial	\$340.98
Endowment	\$4,306.56
Restricted Estate Fund Balance	\$26,498.84
Unrestricted Estate Fund Balance	\$11,443.70
Contingency Reserve Balance	\$20,000.00
Misc Undesignated Fund	\$1,544.41
Youth Programs Fund	\$5,352.12
Worship & Music	\$2,395.42
Education Ministry	\$11,530.21
Fellowship & Outreach	\$2,453.44
Building General Expenses	\$2,933.79
Thrivent Choice Fund	\$127.86
Community Outreach	\$2,380.83
Sabbatical Fund	\$6,295.99
Total Fund balances	\$126,499.56

Tammy Barclay, Treasurer



Needed Weekly to Meet Budgeted Mission—\$7975.21

October 5, 2025

General fund giving, including Simply Giving, is
\$5350.54

Designated fund giving, including Simply Giving, is
\$75.00

October 12, 2025

General fund giving, including Simply Giving, is
\$2920.79

Designated fund giving, including Simply Giving, is
\$504.00

October 19, 2025

General fund giving, including Simply Giving, is
\$6273.58

Designated fund giving, including Simply Giving, is
\$6032.27

October 26, 2024

General fund giving, including Simply Giving, is
\$2717.28 Designated fund giving, including Simply
Giving, is **\$1388.00**

May the blessing of joy abide within you;
May the blessing of peace rest upon you;
May the blessing of love flow out through you;
May all the blessings of the Lord be yours
at Christmas and in the new year.



In Loving Memory of
Adolph & Vernis
Haugland
from:
Steve Haugland
(Solar Panels)

EDUCATION YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Please join us as the Sunday Schoolers perform their annual Christmas Program on Sunday, December 14 during the 9:00 am worship, with snacks to follow. There will not be Sunday School following the program.

Other important dates:

Sun, Dec 21 - No Sunday School

Sun, Dec 28 - No Sunday School

Sun, Jan 4 - Sunday School resumes



Engaging Children Initiative

Thank you to all who filled out the survey! The results overwhelmingly state that Trinity provides a welcoming environment with friendly people! Additional results will be shared in the future.

We are excited to unveil the nursery! A special thanks to Christin Gasner for her vision and artistic ability, as well as Stacey Markuson, Amy Stoffregen, Pastor Josh, and Jeff & Tracy Kingsley for their time in painting and assembling. Be sure to stop in to take a peak!

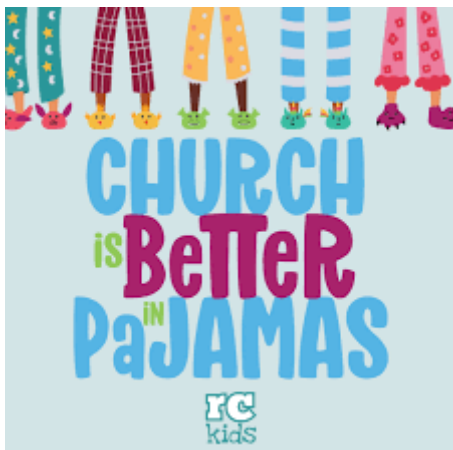
Our Pray-Ground is ready for Advent and Christmas! There are new toys and materials to celebrate this joyous time of year as we await the birth of Christ!

More joyful experimentation!!:



We will be bringing back the instruments for the sending hymn! We have NEW shakers and percussion instruments to celebrate the season!

Join in on the Sloth Naming Contest! Make sure to place your vote in the Narthex. The grand reveal will be at the Sunday, December 28 worship!



Also at the December 28 worship you are invited to wear your pajamas (or cozy clothes!) and join us for fellowship, cookies, hot cocoa, and milk after worship!



TRINITY LUTHERAN MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

Members of the congregation have been generous with your memorials. The Mission Endowment committee gives financial support for special ministry and projects within the congregation, local outreach programs and mission programs of the ELCA and the LaCrosse Area Synod.

Recently, we were able to send funding support to the Trinity solar panel project, Sparta Backpack Program, Ecumenical Food Pantry, Family Promise, Life Change Connections and the Little Food Pantry.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Why do we need Stephen Ministry? I've been asked this question by some members of our congregation. While I am ready and able to respond with the reasons, I think a former care receiver says it best.

"Sometimes you need a stranger without judgement just to be there to listen. The Lord sent me one from the Stephen Ministry. What a great lady! She listened to my problems ...she even shared some of her own with me. We both trusted each other that none of our talks would go any further. We talked, went for walks, met at church, or talked on the phone. I thank the Stephen Ministry Program and all the people who are involved with it now and in the past."

Sometimes, people need help! If a listening ear, a hand to hold, or a shoulder to cry on can help ease some pain and suffering, then that's what we do! As Christians, we are asked to carry on His good works. Stephen Ministry is a way for you to do that! Please, prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister.

In Christ, Your Stephen Ministry Team,

Jan Jenkins, Linda Mull, Julie Ender, Pastor Josh



MERRY
CHRISTMAS

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



DECEMBER FAITH FORMATION (grades 6 – 9) SCHEDULE

Wednesday, 12/3: Church doors open at 2:00 p.m.

Cookie Decorating

AAW Meal, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Large Group/Small Group, 6:45 – 8:15 p.m.

Sunday, 12/7: Worship @ 9:00 a.m.

4G @ 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, 12/10: Church doors open at 2:00 p.m.

Cookie Decorating

AAW Meal, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Large Group/Small Group, 6:45 – 8:15 p.m.

Sunday, 12/14: Sunday School Christmas Program at 9:00 a.m.

Bake Sale @ 10:00 a.m.

4G @ 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, 12/17: Church doors open at 2:00 p.m.

AAW Meal, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Party, 6:45 – 8:15 p.m.

Sunday, 12/21: Worship @ 9:00 a.m.

4G @ 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, 12/24: Christmas Eve Worship at 3:30, 7:00, & 11:00

NO FF

Sunday, 12/28: Wear comfy clothes (pajamas, etc.) to worship @ 9:00 a.m.

Join us for Hot Chocolate & cookies after worship in the Fellowship Hall!

Wednesday, 12/31: New Year's Eve

NO FF

4G (God, Girls, & Guys are GR8T)

All students in grades 6 – 12 are invited to join us after 9:00 a.m. worship in the Youth Room! We enjoy breakfast, Bible time, & talking to get caught up with each other's lives. It's a great place to be on Sunday mornings after worship, & we would LOVE to have you there! Feel free to bring a friend



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We will be ordering poinsettias for the upcoming Christmas season. We are asking individuals or families to consider purchasing the plants for our enjoyment throughout this special season. If you purchase a poinsettia, we kindly ask that you take it home with you after the 9:00 am worship service on Sunday, December 28. Thank you!

Order Form

Name _____

Envelope No. _____

of Poinsettias (6" pot) _____ (\$20.00 each) \$ _____

Pink _____ White _____ Red _____

In Honor/In Memory of (**please circle one**) _____

OR

Monetary donation for the local food pantry \$ _____

In Honor/In Memory of (**please circle one**) _____

Please bring order form and payment to the church office by **no later than Friday, December 12th.**

****Only plants that are paid for will be ordered!****



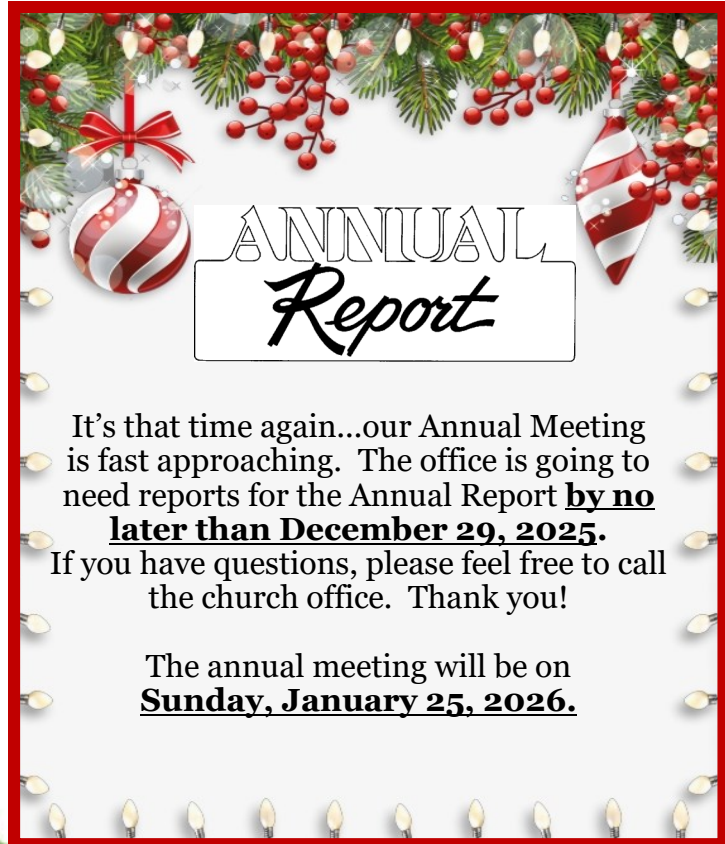
Join us!

Christmas Cantata

Trinity's Alleluia Choir
joins the
Methodist Choir

DEC 14 SUN 2PM "HOPE HAS DAWNED, NOEL"
A CANTATA FOR CHRISTMAS

SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
210 NORTH COURT STREET- SPARTA, WI
FREE ADMISSION - ALL ARE WELCOME!



ANNUAL Report

It's that time again...our Annual Meeting is fast approaching. The office is going to need reports for the Annual Report **by no later than December 29, 2025.**

If you have questions, please feel free to call the church office. Thank you!

The annual meeting will be on **Sunday, January 25, 2026.**

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TRINITY...

Ministry Coordinator

Greetings!

Christmas will soon be upon us and we still need volunteers to help with the Christmas Eve services. We need greeters, readers, and communion servers! PLEASE sign up on the sheet in the Narthex (It's on the whiteboard as you come up the steps!). If you have any questions, please ask!

If you have not turned in your Stewardship of Time & Talent trifolds yet, there is still time – I will ALWAYS take them! There are MANY ways to be involved in the ministries of the church, not just during the service. If you have any questions or suggestions, my door is open!

God's Peace,

Julie Ender

Ladles of Love needs more volunteers and guests. Ladles of Love is a free community meal held on the 2nd and 3rd Thursdays in our Fellowship Hall. This free community meal is prepared and served by volunteers including local individuals, groups, organizations, and school clubs. We want to serve every Thursday but we need more volunteers to prepare and serve meals. Please let the people below know of more groups who might provide one or two meals per year.

More adult and children guests are also welcomed. We serve between 25 and 30 guests, but often have food for more. As Debbie Page once said, "If I don't have to cook, it is a good meal".

For more information contact the Ladles of Love committee: Michael Bonello at (608) 633-2069, Sharon Nelson at (608) 633-3179, Sue Steivang at (608) 487-2607, Bill McClain at (608) 269-4826 or Janet Johnson at (608) 387-0006.

Thank you to Trinity for the use of this church's facilities for this community service.



Trinity Lutheran Church Blood Drive

Monday, December 22, 12pm—5 pm

Tuesday December 23, 12 pm—5 pm

Fellowship Hall



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TRINITY...

HELP NEEDED

Volunteers are requested to help the decorating committee prepare our church home for Advent and Christmas. Come and join us to hang the beautiful Chrismon tree decorations for the altar tree. These ornaments were handmade by women of the congregation many years ago. There are garlands and wreaths to hang. A special joy is to help decorate the entry and narthex trees with angel ornaments that have been lovingly donated in memory and honor of our loved ones. We will meet Tuesday, December 2, at 9:00 a.m. Your time is always appreciated. Thank you.



If you have any prayer requests, please contact
Jonelle Intihar,
our prayer group
coordinator at

Jonelle@theintihars.com

IMPORTANT DATES Please mark your calendars

CHURCH COUNCIL

Tuesday, December 9th, at 6:30 p.m.

Tidings Articles Due Date

Articles for the January edition are due to Leslie by no later than **noon on Friday, December 19th**. The Tidings Team will be in on Friday, December 26th, to assemble them.



OFFICE CLOSED

December 25th

Closed all day

January 1st

Closed all day

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year*

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TRINITY...

December Worship Schedule

December 7

9:00 am worship with communion

December 14

9:00 am worship—Sunday School Program

December 21

9:00 am Worship with communion

December 24

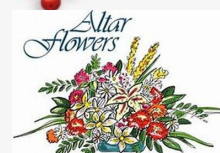
3:30 pm Christmas Eve with communion

9:00 pm Christmas Eve with communion

11:00 pm Christmas Eve with communion

December 28

9:00 am Worship



Thank you for purchasing
flowers for the altar in December:

December 7— Peterson families in
memory of Camilla Rose

December 14—Paul & Cheryl Nelson in
honor of their 60th Anniversary

December 21— Julee Hopkins

December 28—Steve & Judy Bennett

Peace

Love

Joy

WOMEN'S CIRCLES

MARY CIRCLE

Mary Circle will meet in December for their Christmas Party. The Mary Circle Christmas Party will be on Monday, Dec. 8th at 12 noon at Tammy Barclay's house. Hope to see you there! We will be resume our Bible Study in January. New people are always welcome to Mary Circle! Contact Barb Moorhead (487-3721) with questions.

SHALOM CIRCLE

Thursday, December 11th,
at 1:30 pm
at MaryCrest
Contact Adell Morton with
questions
(608-269-7039)



JOY CIRCLE

Thursday, December 11th,
at 11:00 am
At Dub's Pub
Contact Julee Hopkins with
questions
(608-269-2808)

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS*Birthday Blessings*

12/01	Jolene Breitenfield, Brenda Degenhardt, Cincy O'Neil
12/05	Mick Siver, Gene Von Ruden
12/06	Robbie Dockerty, Alec Von Ruden
12/07	Connie Lietzau, Kadon Milne, Isabelle Schultz
12/08	Cindy Cable, Gregg Kenyon
12/09	Katelyn Scholze
12/10	Stefhanie Greenwell
12/11	Emily Woodworth
12/12	Steve Brandau Jr., Kolby Leis, Timothy Steivang
12/13	Jean Hays, Mary Herrman
12/14	Clair Mobley, Paul Sagehorn
12/15	Kara Jenkins
12/16	Dulce Scott
12/19	Dan Amundson, Judy Bernett, Phil Dammen, Ashley Jaeger
12/20	Anje Schmitz, Cruz Thurow, Amanda Woodworth
12/22	Stacie Burke-Giraud, David Olson, Madelyn Sprain, Logan Walley
12/23	Isaac Larson, Noah Markuson, Philip Schulz, Lee Sprain
12/24	Chuck Amundson Sr., Jakob Larson, Carol Olson
12/25	Joshua Smith, JESUS
12/26	Aaron Weibel, Sloane Garske
12/27	Jo Ellen Siver
12/29	Gail Baltz, Erik Drake, Meghan Perry, Valerie Ruedy, Dan Theirl
12/30	Paul Larsen
12/31	Blaine Markuson, Ethan Opprieht

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES*Anniversary Blessings*

12/04	Bob & Joyce Emery
12/09	Kevin & Sarah Nelson
12/10	Bob & Jenny Lydon
12/17	Paul & Cheryl Nelson
12/31	Ron & Becky Anderson



**Happy Birthday
&
Anniversary Wishes**

**Wishing you an amazing year
filled with love & joy!
God Bless you!**

If you do not see your name on the birthday/anniversary list, it means that your information is not inputted in our church software system. Please contact Leslie in the church office to add this information if your name is not listed and your birthday and/or anniversary is in the month of December. On the other hand, if you see someone on this list and it is not accurate, could you also contact Leslie and let her know so that she can make any necessary changes in our system. Thank you!

UPCOMING SERVING SCHEDULES

GREETERS

December 7: Les & Althea Stanley
 December 14: Youth—Sunday School Program
 December 21: Sarah & Trevor Tripp
 December 24: 3:30—Opportunity to serve
 9:00—Opportunity to serve
 11:00—Opportunity to serve
 December 25: Opportunity to serve
 December 28: John Tempski



COMMUNION SERVERS

December 7: Doug Dengel, Brenda Degenhardt, Julie Ender
 December 14: No Communion
 December 21: Dennis & Carol Glaman, Mary Herrman
 December 24: 3:30—Opportunity to serve
 9:00—Opportunity to serve
 11:00—Opportunity to serve
 December 28: No communion



READERS

December 7: Julie Ender
 December 14: Sunday School Program
 December 21: SaraH Tripp
 December 24: 3:30—Opportunity to serve
 9:00—Opportunity to serve
 11:00—Opportunity to serve
 December 28: Trevor Tripp



MONEY COUNTING

December 1: Fred Olson, Nancy Oswald, Gail Baltz
 December 8: Audrey Zebell, Bill McClain, PJ Sikorsky
 December 15: Carol Thorsen, Carol Glaman, Brenda Degenhardt
 December 22: JoEllen Siver, Alice Olson, Pete Perkins
 December 29: Rita Bernette, Adell Morton, Gary Peterson



MUSIC

Accompanist

Special Music:

Dec. 7: Adell Morton Alleluia Choir
 Dec. 14: Sunday School Program
 Dec. 21: Virginia Bolin
 Dec. 24: 3:30—Adell Morton
 7:00—Virginia Bolin
 11:00—Adell Morton
 Dec. 28: Virigina Bolin



NURSING HOME BULLETIN DELIVERY

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Morrow Home:</u>	<u>Rolling Hills:</u>
Dec. 5	Wayne & Deb Hagen	Wayne & Deb Hagen
Dec. 12	Judy Schure	Karen wall
Dec. 19	Lana & Larry Zwiefel	Doug Dengel
Dec. 26	Gary Nelson	Sharon Nelson



PEW RESTOCKING

December—Kevin & Sarah Nelson



FOOD PANTRY

December 3: Rita Bernette, Audrey Zebell
 December 10: Dennis & Carol Glaman
 December 11: Sheila Abbott, Mary Herrman
 December 17: Donna Boland, Anita
 December 23: Larry & Nila Larson

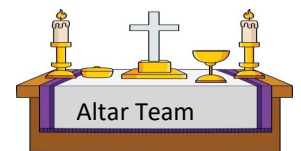


ALTAR FLOWERS

December—Karen Hernandez
**Pick up every Friday at Sparta Floral anytime
 and deliver to the church
 before 1:30 p.m.**



December 7: Judy Schure, MaryAnn Bolstad
 December 14: Doug Dengel, Judy Bernett
 December 21: Carol Thorsen, Renee Gavilan
 December 24: Connie Jerome, Stacey Markuson,
 Cynthia Lockington



The Church Council moves to accept the following changes to Trinity's Constitution, to come in line with the Model Constitution of the ELCA.

Following are amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations that were approved by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly. Additions are underlined; deletions are struck through; all changes are ***italicized and bolded***

Chapter 1.

NAME AND INCORPORATION

C1.02. For the purpose of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws [***and continuing resolutions***], the congregation of (***Trinity Lutheran Church***) is hereinafter designated as "this congregation."

Rationale: Insertion for comprehensiveness.

Chapter 5.

POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION

*C5.04. This congregation ***or the Congregation Council*** shall elect from among ~~*its the*~~ voting members ***of the congregation*** laypersons to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be elected ~~*by this congregation*~~ and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by the ***LaCrosse Area Synod*** of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Rationale: This change allows for lay voting members of the Synod Assembly to be elected either by the congregation or by the Congregation Council. Current language requires election by the congregation.

Chapter 7.

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

*C7.03. If the voting members of this congregation present at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to ~~*relate transfer*~~ to another Lutheran church body, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation, provided the process for termination of relationship in *C6.05. has been followed. Before this congregation takes action to ~~*relate transfer*~~ to another Lutheran church body, it shall consult with representatives of the ***LaCrosse Area Synod***.

Rationale: Consistency with 9.71.d. of the ELCA Constitution.

Chapter 9.

ROSTERED MINISTER

***C9.02. ~~Only~~ This congregation may call as a pastor only:**

- a. a member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; or
- b. a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament who has been recommended for this congregation by the synod bishop.

~~**may be called as a pastor of this congregation.**~~

Rationale: Formatting for clarity.

***C9.03. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,**

- a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:

....

8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, **proclaiming God's love for the world**, advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations.

Rationale: A number of amendments were made by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to this bylaw and to its parallels throughout the constitutions. In the process, the phrase "proclaiming God's love for the world" was omitted from the list of responsibilities of rostered ministers. This amendment restores the phrase.

***C9.06. At a time of pastoral vacancy, an interim pastor ~~shall~~ may be appointed by the bishop of the synod with the consent of this congregation or the Congregation Council.**

Rationale: It is not always possible for a synod bishop to appoint an interim pastor for every congregation.

***C9.15. Under special circumstances, subject to the approval of the synod bishop and the concurrence of this congregation, a minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially has established a relationship of full communion may serve temporarily as pastor of this congregation under a contract between this congregation and the pastor in a form proposed by the synod bishop and approved by this congregation.**

Rationale: Provision is being changed to “required.” With the increasing use of exchangeability of rostered ministers with full communion partners, it is advisable that all congregations make allowance for that possibility.

*C9.22. ~~Only~~ **This congregation may call as a deacon only:**

- a. a member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; or
- b. a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Service who has been recommended for this congregation by the synod bishop.

~~**may be called as a deacon of this congregation.**~~

Rationale: Editorial reformatting for clarity.

*C9.23. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall:

. . . .

- c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, **proclaiming God’s love for the world**, advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations;

Rationale: A number of amendments were made by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to this bylaw and to its parallels throughout the constitutions. In the process, the phrase “proclaiming God’s love for the world” was omitted from the list of responsibilities of rostered ministers. This amendment restores the phrase.

Chapter 15.

DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS AND ADJUDICATION

*C15.01. Persistent and public denial of the Christian faith, willful or criminal conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ, continual and intentional interference with the ministry of this congregation, or willful and repeated harassment or defamation of member(s) of this congregation is sufficient cause for discipline of a member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation and repentance will be attempted following Matthew 18:15–17, proceeding through these successive steps, as necessary:

- ~~a)~~ private counsel and admonition by the pastor,
- ~~b)~~ censure and admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses,
- ~~c)~~ written referral of the matter by the Congregation Council to the vice president of the synod, who will refer it to a consultation panel drawn from the Consultation Committee of the synod, and
- ~~d)~~ written referral of the matter by the consultation panel to the Committee on Discipline of the synod.

If, for any reason, the pastor is unable to administer the admonitions required by ~~paragraphs~~ a. and b. hereof, those steps may be performed by another pastor chosen by the Executive Committee of the Congregation Council.

Rationale: Formatting correction and consistency of constitutional language.

*C15.11. When there is disagreement between or among factions within this congregation on a substantive issue which cannot be resolved by the parties, members of this congregation may petition the synod bishop for consultation after informing the president [vice president] of this congregation of their intent to do so. The synod bishop shall seek a timely resolution of the dispute. If the issue relates directly to the pastor, the bishop may begin the process in ~~§14.18~~ *C9.05.d. In all other matters, if the bishop's consultation fails to resolve the issue, the bishop shall refer the matter to the Consultation Committee of the synod, which shall undertake efforts to find an appropriate solution. If the Consultation Committee's efforts fail to resolve the dispute, the entire matter shall be referred to the Synod Council for adjudication by whatever process the Council deems necessary. The Synod Council's decision shall be final.

Rationale: It is more logical to cross-reference within the Model Constitution, rather than to make reference to the synod constitution.

Chapter 16.

AMENDMENTS

*C16.02. An amendment to this constitution, proposed under *C16.01., shall:

- a. be approved at any legally called meeting of this congregation by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting; and
- b. be ratified ~~without change~~ unchanged at the next regular meeting of this congregation by a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting.

Rationale: Consistency of constitutional language.



Trinity Lutheran Church

DECEMBER, 2025

612 North Water Street
Sparta, WI 54656
Tel. (608) 269-5081

Office Email: office@tlcsparta.org
Website: www.tlcsparta.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 8:30 am Quilting—FH 5:30 pm—Ed, Youth & Family Ministry—SR 7:00 CODA—HR	2 8:30 am—Quilting—FH 9:00 am—Ladies Breakfast at LaHerradura Restaurant 9:00 am Church Decorating	3 10:00 am—Food Pantry 1:45 pm—Rolling Hills Worship w/communion 2:00 pm Doors open 5:30-6:30 pm—AAW Meal—FH 5:45 pm— Bell Choir—SR 6:45 pm—Faith Formation 7:00 pm—Alleluia choir	4 5:30 pm—Music & Worship 6:30 CODA—HR	5	6
7 9:00 am—Worship with Communion—Alleluia Choir Fellowship—Mary Circle 10:00 Pastors Bible Study 10:00 am—Sunday School 10:00 am—4G—Youth Room 6:00 Pack/Den Meeting	8 12:00 Mary Circle @ Tammy Barclay's Home 6:30 pm Troop 67—FH 7:00 pm CODA—HR	9 5:00 Faith In Action— SR 6:30 pm Council Meeting—SR	10 8:00 Men's Breakfast 10:00 am—Food Pantry 2:00 pm—Morrow Home Worship w/communion 2:00 pm Doors open 5:30-6:30 pm—AAW Meal—FH 5:45 pm—Bell Choir—SR 6:45 pm—Faith Formation 7:00 pm—Alleluia Choir	11 9:00 am—Prayer Shawl—HR 10:00 am—Food Pantry 11:00 am—Joy Circle @ Dub's 1:30 pm—Shalom Circle at MaryCrest 5:00-6:30 Ladies of Love—FH 6:30 CODA—HR	12	13
14 9:00 am—Worship Sunday School Program Fellowship—Larry & Nila Larson 10:00 Pastors Bible Study 10:00 am—Sunday School 10:00 am—4G—Youth Room 6:00 Pack/Den Parent Meeting	15 8:30 am Quilting—FH 7:00 pm CODA—HR	16 8:30 am Quilting—FH	17 10:00 am—Food Pantry 2:00 pm Doors open 5:30-6:30 pm—AAW Meal—FH 5:45 pm—Bell Choir—SR 6:45 pm—Faith Formation 7:00 pm—Alleluia Choir	18 5:00-6:30 Ladies of Love—FH 6:30 CODA—HR	19 TIDINGS ARTICLES DUE FOR THE JANUARY TIDINGS	20
21 9:00 am—Worship with Communion (communion for home-bound) (loose change offering) Fellowship—Council 10:00 Pastors Bible Study 10:00 am—4G—Youth Room	22 Blood Drive 12-5pm—FH 6:30 pm Troop 67—FH 7:00 pm CODA—HR	23 Blood Drive—12- 5 pm— FH 5-7 pm Food Pantry	24 NO AAW Meal—FH NO Faith Formation 3:30 pm Worship 7:00 pm Worship 11:00 pm Worship	25 CHRISTMAS DAY—CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 CODA—HR	26 TIDING TEAM TO ASSEMBLE JANUARY TIDINGS	27
28 9:00 am—Worship Bell Choir Fellowship—Bill & Mary Herrman 10:00 Pastors Bible Study 10:00 am—4G—Youth Room	29 7:00 pm CODA—HR	30	31 NO AAW Meal—FH NO Faith Formation 5:45 pm—Bell Choir—SR 7:00 pm—Alleluia Choir			

*Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year*

from the staff at Trinity



Wishing you the *Spirit of Christmas*
which is **PEACE**
The *Blessing of Christmas*
which is **Hope**
From the *Heart of Christmas*
which is **Christ**