

In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness
has not overcome it.

John 1:4-5



FROM THE PASTOR...

Happy New Year! Well, Happy New Church Year! The church liturgical calendar differs from our standard Gregorian calendar, you know, the calendar most of us use in our daily lives. Instead of the church year beginning in January, it always begins with the first Sunday in Advent, the Sunday which is closest to St. Andrew's Day (November 30th). So this year the church year begins on December 3rd.

December is a busy time for many of us. We have so many Christmas parties to get ready for, gifts to buy, and endless number of things to get done. And while Christmas is one of the most wonderful times of the year, let's not rush through Advent.

Advent is perhaps one of the most reflective times of the church year. It's a time when we reflect on the advent, the coming, of our Lord and Savior. Yes, we like to focus on His birth in Bethlehem, His coming to us as man. But Advent also gives us time to reflect on Christ coming to us in His Second Coming. And while His first coming makes us nostalgic in many ways, His Second Coming means the end of all pain and suffering, and we get to live with Him eternally in our resurrected, perfect bodies. This is why we offer so many additional times to worship together during Advent and Christmas, to be reminded of His great love for us.

Interestingly enough, this is also the celebration of my first year here at Trinity Lutheran Church and School. It has been a wonderful year, getting to know Wausau, in addition to getting to know the dear saints here in our congregation. I've gotten to attend school academic events, school sporting events, fundraising events, many different board meetings, and of course a fair amount of funerals.

People often ask how we like Wausau, having been here a year. I think my wife Regina summed it up nicely by saying that Wausau has some of the most vibrant colors year round. Our first winter back in the Midwest was snow filled, but not as frigid as I remember. The spring flowers bloomed nicely, when spring finally sprung and the snow finally decided to quit falling. The summer was so green, aside from the lack of rain. The fall had wonderful, vivid coloring of leaves, aside from all the makeup rain we got. And I got to experience a white Halloween, which definitely never happened to us while we were in Texas.

Both Trinity and Wausau have a lot of lifetime members. It's wonderful to hear about the history of the town, but even more so the great history of the church and school. And we feel blessed to be a part of such a great community.

As I get ready to begin my second year of ministry here at Trinity, I reflect upon the things I know. I know there are a lot of wonderful people here that want to see our school and congregation grow and thrive. I know we have a wonderful staff in both the school and church, and without their help and guidance, I would be struggling to simply get anything done. I know we have a great set of leadership on the Church Council, School Board, and Board of Elders who have a love for our church and school, and go above and beyond to help lead and guide us. I know that Christ is still raised, He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and our only source of Salvation. I know He was crucified for you, died for you, resurrected for you, and will come again to welcome you home into His everlasting arms.

I pray everyone has a blessed Advent and Christmas!

Rev. James L. Mayland

Happy Birthday!

To our members who are celebrating their 80th or more birthday in December! Surprise them with a card or visit.

December 5	Adeline Krause 3107 Westhill Dr. 54401
December 9	Marlene Goetsch 232371 Wellborn Rd. 54403
December 12	Bernice Grosskreutz 818 N 7th Ave. 54401
December 13	Rev. Dennis Pegorsch 4210 Hilltop Rd. 54403
December 14	Lyle Krohn 220 E Bos Creek Dr. 54401
December 14	Helen Stubbe 1207 W Wausau Ave. 54401
December 16	Robert Detert 205 S 7th Ave. 54401
December 18	Gordon Hansen 2175 E Park Ave. Rm. 102 Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
December 23	Marion Froemming 1402 Evergreen Rd. 54403
December 28	Donald Beese 146188 Marmel Dr. 54401
December 29	Robert Schalow 916 Knox St. 54401

Our Sympathy.

We extend our sympathy to the families of those who have passed away.

• Otto Imm	November 3
• Gordon Bauman	November 4
• Kenneth Ziegel	November 7
• Doyonis "Dodie" Egan	November 10
• Gerald Erdmann	November 13
• Charlotte Baneck	November 14
• Bernice Kickbusch	November 15
• Edna Heckendorf	November 21
• Mark Bentley*	November 21

Holy Baptism!

We welcome the following into the Lord's family through Baptism.

+ Josephine Jean Hall November 12

OPEN HOUSE

TRINITY SCHOOL
JANUARY 29, 2024
4:00-6:00PM

Take a tour, meet the teachers, and get a personal look at what sets Trinity apart!

*Open Enrollment for 4K-8th Grade
Begins January 15, 2024*

At Trinity we educate for character as well as intellect; for faith as well as citizenship; for virtue as well as knowledge. We partner with families to meet needs and develop disciples.

Tuition Assistance is Available!

Please contact the school office for more information. Trinity is a participant of the **Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP)** which allows students who reside in a Wisconsin school district, to attend any participating private school if certain eligibility criteria are met. The private school, on behalf of the pupil's parent or guardian, receives a state aid payment for each eligible student. For further details please go to: <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/choice-programs>. Applications will be accepted February 1st-April 19th.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL CONTACTS

Phone: 715-842-0769 or 715-848-0166

Website: trinitywausau.org

Email Address: trinity@trinitynet.org

Rev. James L. Mayland, Senior Pastor. ext. 360
Rev. Dr. Dennis W. Pegorsch, Pastor Emeritus. 715-675-4074
Rev. Steven Vaudt, Pastor Emeritus. 715-610-2920
Matthew Hoehne, Director of Music. ext. 303
Bill Zuelsdorff, School Principal. ext. 308
Rick Stengl, Director of Christian Education. 715-843-7023
Tina Dickens, Church Administrator. ext. 304

*Emergency On-Call Pastor. 715-842-0769, press "0"
. 1-715-506-2807

Staffing Update

We continue to hire for a few remaining part-time positions on our childcare team. Qualified assistant childcare teachers will earn up to \$16 hourly. Not yet qualified but feel passionate about working with children and sharing the joy of Jesus' love? A supported training program is available to assist you in reaching your career goals. Apply online at [indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com) by searching Trinity Lutheran Wausau.

Dates to Note

The childcare center will be **CLOSED** so that staff may spend the following holidays with their families:

Christmas—Monday, December 25th &
Tuesday, December 26th

New Years Day—Monday, January 1st

Childcare will be open and provide care for registered school-age children on the following no-school days:

Wednesday—Friday, December 27th—29th
As well as Tuesday, January 2nd

Please ensure your school-age child is signed up for care, if you require, for any of the days listed above. You can sign-up on the clipboard in the extended childcare classroom or email Jen in the office at effingerj@trinitynet.org to ensure your child is on the roster. It is very important that you ensure your child is signed up in advance, this gives us the ability to schedule the right staff at the right time. We will not be able to accommodate school-age students on no-school days without advance notice.

Trinity Childcare strives to be open when the school is closed. When weather is questionable, look for notifications on WAOW and WSAW, as well as on our social media platforms, Facebook and Instagram, or our website, trinitywausau.org for the most up-to-date information. In the rare event that Trinity Childcare should also close, that will be noted on those platforms.



Happy Hearts

Our 12-24 month old children are officially in their very own classroom space! Room 105 near the school cafeteria and Sonshine room is now our Happy Hearts Classroom. This has been a huge undertaking for our staff. We are so grateful to each and every member of our childcare team for all the love, sweat and tears that they have poured into the center over the last several months. Not only have we tripled our staff, which was no small undertaking, we have had a 30% increase in student enrollment as well. The hard work and dedication of our staff has been the foundation for all of the progress we have made over the last several months. We are bursting with gratitude for each and every member of our team. If you see them, please thank them for continuing to be a beacon of Jesus' light and love to the children of our congregation and community. Continue to look for updates on student enrollment. We look forward to more opportunities to continue to grow our student roster over the coming months.

Contact Info

The best way to reach our childcare staff continues to be by phone at 715-842-0769 during office hours 7:30am–4pm or you can reach all of our lead teachers by email at childcarelead@trinitynet.org. We are happy to announce that each classroom now has a designated team of teachers, lead teachers are listed below.

Little Lambs (6 weeks-12 months)

Lead teacher - Amber Nelson

Happy Hearts (12-24 months)

Lead teacher - Sara Seehafer

Rainbow Room (2-3 years)

Lead teacher - Cara Klinger & Abby Northup

Butterfly Buddies (3-4 years)

Lead teacher - Emily Zimmermann &
Abby Northup

Son Shine (4K wrap around care)

Lead teacher - Chelsea Radke

Extended Childcare (school-age wrap around care)

Acting Lead teacher - Mercedes Lobner

For billing questions or concerns, please call Jen Effinger in the Church Office at 715-842-0769 or email effingerj@trinitynet.org.

Here's What's Happening

A season to remember is probably the best way to categorize this year's volleyball season. All our teams played very well this year, with our A girls team participating in the State Volleyball tournament for the 1st time ever in Trinity history. The girls came home with the Spirit Award from that tournament which speaks well for our players and fans. Thanks to all of the coaches, parents and players that made this a special season!



Chapel Time

Chapel is always a special time in our school week. It is led by various staff members, outside guests, and our classes. Chapel takes place on Wednesdays starting at 10am. Everyone is welcome to come and join in.



Red Robin Fundraiser

On Thursday, December 7th, Red Robin is giving 20% of food sales back to Trinity as a fundraiser for the 8th Grade Class Trip. Grab a flyer outside the school office to present to your server or simply mention the fundraising event to have your sales counted. Thank you!

Dates to Remember

- **December 7**—Red Robin Fundraiser (8th Gr. Class Trip)
- **December 20**—School Christmas Service
- **Dec. 25—Jan. 2**— Christmas Break

Legacy Auction

This year's Legacy Auction took place on November 4th at Greenwood Hills Country Club. The night was full of good food, fellowship and, of course, auction items to bid on. Money raised at this auction will go directly to the school to benefit our students and staff. In the past, money has been used for technology, security and last year a playground upgrade. I would like to thank the effort of Tracie Schultz and Jami Olcott for all the time and hard work they put into this year's event! Thanks to everyone who supported our auction this year. We look forward to seeing you next year!



Cookie/Candy Sale

Let us do your holiday baking! Trinity Lutheran School is having a Cookie/Candy Sale just in time for Christmas! The sale will be in the Cafeteria on Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 9am-12pm and Sunday, Dec. 3rd, 7-11am. Proceeds from the sale will go towards school fellowship events, such as Muffins with Mom and Donuts with Dad.

If you are interested in donating baked goods or candy for the sale, please deliver them to the school office on Friday, December 1st or to the Cafeteria on the morning of Saturday, December 2nd. Thank you!

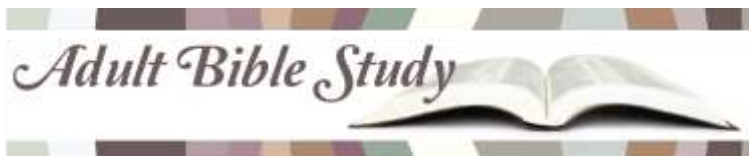
School Christmas Service

On December 20th at 10am and 6:30pm, the students of Trinity Lutheran School will present "Prepare the Way" at our final Midweek Advent service. Join us as our construction crew takes us through the work zone on the way to Bethlehem to meet the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ!

BIBLE STUDIES & MINISTRIES

*We have a place for you at Trinity:
Get Involved in a Ministry or Bible Study!*

Questions? Call (715) 842-0769.



The Book of Revelation

Sundays, 10:15am, Sanctuary

Wednesdays at 9:00am & 5:30pm in the Parlors

Revelation is one of the most mysterious books in the Bible, and we are going to break it down to find the wonderful message of hope that Christ has for us.



Sanctuary Choir

Thursdays, 6:30-7:30pm (new time!)

Come and join us as we lift our voices in song!

JuBellation Handbell Choir

Mondays, 6:00-7:00pm

We are looking for a couple of ringers to make our ensemble complete—contact Matt Hoehne (715-842-0769, ext. 303 or hoehnem@trinitynet.org) for more information.

Praise Team

Mondays, 5:45-6:45pm

Spiritual Life Center

Join us as we sing praise to the Lord!



Goetsch/Wadzinski Group

Every other Monday, 1:00pm, Parlors



LWML Women's Fellowship

2nd Tuesday of the month, 1:00pm, Parlors

Ladies of the congregation, invite your friends and sign up in the narthex near the coffee area to attend Trinity's Advent by Candlelight on **Sunday, December 10th at 3pm in the Parlors**. You can choose to set and decorate a table, bring cookies and treats, or just be a guest in preparing our hearts for Advent, with the theme, "The King Shall Come."

Our offering this year will go to support a son of our congregation, Garrett Anklam, as he studies at our LCMS seminary. If you are not able to attend, you can still contribute by labeling an envelope (Trinity seminary student) and putting it in our big mite box or handing it personally to Sharon Hanke or Pauline Bruss.

Women's Fellowship Christmas Potluck

We will meet on Tuesday, December 12th in the Parlors at 12:00 PM for a potluck luncheon. We will play some games and sing some Christmas carols too. Please bring a dish to pass and a small women's hygiene item to donate to the Women's Community. Beverages, plates, and utensils will be provided. Let Sharon Hanke know if you plan to join us so that we set enough places for all.



Men's Basketball

Mondays, 7:00-8:30pm, Gymnasium

Men Age 18+ are invited to join us for an opening prayer followed by Open Gym for basketball. Please contact Troy with any questions: 715-370-6399.

Men's Bible Study

Saturdays, 8:00-8:45am, Parlors

Join us for fellowship that builds one another up and Bible study on the Book of Job. If you have any questions about this ministry or would like more information, please call Terry Page at 715-845-8732.



Sunday School

Join us on Sunday, December 17th at 10:15am in the Sanctuary for our Christmas program, "Celebrating the Nativity."

As an upcoming service project, we will be making blankets for all our homebound members on February 11th. The blankets will have a pocket sewn into them to store the Portals of Prayer devotional books! Please consider donating polar fleece fabric in adult, faith-friendly prints (1 yard +) to the reception area bin. Thank you for supporting our service project!

Sunday School Offerings this year will be given to The Lutheran Heritage Foundation. Through their mission offerings, your children are helping provide Bible storybooks for children in southeast Asia. Visit their website for more information: www.LHFmissions.org.

YAT (Youth at Trinity)

(for Grades 7th-12th, divided into Sr. & Jr. YAT)

Various Sundays, 6:00pm, Youth House

Grades 7-12 are invited to join us for devotions, games, snacks, and fellowship! Special events this month include a YAT Packer Party at 7:00pm on December 3rd and a Christmas Party at 6:00pm on December 17th. There will be no YAT on December 24th or 31st.

Confirmation

Sundays, 10:15-11:15am, Parlors

We are looking forward to a great year of sharing and growing our faith in Jesus Christ with this year's 7th & 8th graders, as well as learning about the privileges and responsibilities of an adult Christian life in Christ.



Trinity Quilters

1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th Tuesdays of the month, 8am, Parlors

New workers are always welcome! There will be no quilting on December 19th or 26th, and we will resume on January 2, 2024. Please call Gladys Beese (715-842-2942) with questions.



Just Older Youth
Older Adult Ministry (55+)

Tuesday, December 19th, 1:00pm, Parlors

This month's Special Presentation video is entitled "A Stroll Through the Gospels." Starting from Bethlehem, David Nunn takes us through the places of Jesus' life and ministry. Journey into the wilderness, where John called people to repent, then view the River Jordan. In the lush beauty of Galilee, we visit many of the sites most associated with Jesus: the Mount of Beatitudes, Tabgha, Capernaum, the lakeside, and much more. We discover why Jesus chose Caesarea Philippi at which to elicit Peter's momentous profession. We explore the headwaters of the Jordan before following the path of Jesus south to Jerusalem, passing through Jericho. In the Holy City, we trace the passion of Jesus from the betrayal, trial, and crucifixion to the resurrection and ascension. This program is far more than a travelogue. The visits to the key Gospel sites illuminate the meaning of the world-changing events that took place at these locations.

We will also be joined by Anna Chilsen Straub, Curator of Education at the Marathon County Historical Society to look at a collection of some vintage Christmas decorations and collectibles to see if they trigger any memories! There will be a time of sharing as we look back down memory lane!

Bring along a friend or neighbor. Refreshments provided after the presentations. For further information, please contact the church office or Pastor Dennis Pegorsch at (715) 675-4074.

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND (LCEF) NEWS



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

Earn exceptional interest while supporting the mission of the LCMS!

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is launching a 2.5-year term note at a fixed rate of 6.25%. It's available to both LCMS individuals and congregations, is fast and easy to open and is also available as an IRA. Why should you consider this investment?

First, whether you have \$500 (minimum to open an account – new money only) or much more to invest, this is an ideal way to preserve funds you've set aside, either as an individual or an organization, and earn a very solid rate of return on top of it. (For example, \$6,000 invested now will mature at \$7,006 after 2.5 years.)

Next, this investment works twice as hard for you. Investing with LCEF means you earn competitive interest rates while making funds available for Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod ministries and individuals. For example, investments make low-interest LCEF home loans available to our rostered church workers, enable building loans that give new life to aging ministry facilities, and finance school expansions across the North Wisconsin District. If you take a CD out through a bank, it helps build another bank. If you take one out through LCEF, it helps build Lutheran churches and schools.

Through this limited time offer, LCEF is looking to raise over \$100 million in new money because loan demand is very high; that demand means schools are being strengthened, churches sustained, and more people reached with the love of Christ. So, God be praised! Once LCEF nears that \$100 million threshold, it will close this opportunity.

Please share this message with friends and family. Let people know anyone in the LCMS can open an account—individuals, churches, schools or organizations. It's fast and easy, so don't miss out!

You can start an account today at <http://www.lcef.org>. Should you have any questions, please call LCEF's toll-free helpline at 1-800-843-5233.

Invest in ministry with LCEF's 30-month, 6.25% CD!

You probably know the value of having your money work for you. But did you know your investment could do even more?

When you invest with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), you join tens of thousands of like-minded Lutheran investors who make funds available for loans to LCMS churches, schools, organizations and workers. We call it Lutherans helping Lutherans.

This limited-time offer is available to LCMS individuals, congregations, organizations and businesses. Minimum of \$500 to invest, new money only. You can start an account today at <http://www.lcef.org>. Should you have any questions, please call LCEF's toll-free helpline at 1-800-843-5233.

ADVERTISING SPONSORS

PROTECTION FOR WHAT'S NOW, AND WHAT'S NEXT.

Your dream has many moving parts — and we can protect them all! Bundle your home and auto policies to save, and add on life insurance to opt for convenience, so you can keep dreaming towards what's next.

Let's talk about your insurance needs today.

BUNDLE AND SAVE! 🏠 + 🚗 + ❤️



Jamie Schlei, Agent
Jamie Schlei Agency, LLC
3806 Schofield Ave Ste 3
Schofield, WI 54476
Bus: (715) 359-2400
Certified Agency in
Customer Excellence



American Family Mutual Insurance Company S.I. & its Operating Companies,
American Family Insurance Company, Life insurance products underwritten by
American Family Life Insurance Company, 6000 American Parkway,
Madison, WI 53703 ©2019 015967 - 2/19 - 10164209



More than **90%** of adults feel
that funeral pre-planning is a
good idea.

Less than **30%** have
actually done it.

Have you?

Call Lisa Lanier,
Advance Funeral Planner,
at **715-842-3993** or stop
in today to learn more
and receive our FREE
pre-planning guide.



302 Spruce Street, Wausau, WI 54401 • www.Helke.com



Commercial & Residential Construction

Michael Hase
President

1600 N 36th Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401

715-675-6641 Cell: 715-573-6641
hasebldg@gmail.com



522 Scott Street
Wausau, Wisconsin 54403

715-845-4646
715-849-3704, ext. 201
(direct)

www.runkel.com
marv@runkel.com

CALENDAR—DECEMBER 2023

Friday, December 1st:

8:00 AM Bulletin Assembly—Parlors
6:00 PM Hot Chocolate Giveaway—Parlors

Saturday, December 2nd:

9:00 AM School Christmas Cookie Bake Sale—
Cafeteria (9am-12pm)
8:00 AM Men's Bible Study—Parlors
11:30 AM Blind Outreach Gathering—Parlors
5:00 PM Contemporary Worship—Sanctuary

Sunday, December 3rd:

7:00 AM School Christmas Cookie Bake Sale—
Cafeteria (7am-11am)
7:30 AM Traditional Worship—Sanctuary
9:00 AM Blended Worship—Sanctuary
10:15 AM Bible Study: Revelation—Sanctuary
10:15 AM Confirmation Class—Parlors
10:15 AM Sunday School Rehearsal for Christmas
Program—SLC, Cafeteria
7:00 PM YAT Packer Party—Youth House

Monday, December 4th:

5:45 PM Praise Team Rehearsal—SLC
6:00 PM JuBellation Handbell Rehearsal TBD
7:00 PM Men's Basketball—Gym

Tuesday, December 5th:

8:00 AM Quilters—Parlors
9:30 AM MStaff Meeting—Lounge
3:00 PM GriefShare—Parlors

Wednesday, December 6th:

9:00 AM Bible Study: Revelation—Parlors
10:00 AM Midweek Advent Worship—Sanctuary
5:30 PM Bible Study: Revelation—Parlors
6:30 PM Midweek Advent Worship—Sanctuary

Thursday, December 7th:

6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal TBD

Friday, December 8th:

8:00 AM Bulletin Assembly—Parlors

Saturday, December 9th:

8:00 AM Men's Bible Study—Parlors
5:00 PM Contemporary Worship—Sanctuary

Sunday, December 10th:

7:30 AM Traditional Worship—Sanctuary
9:00 AM Blended Worship—Sanctuary
10:15 AM Bible Study: Revelation—Sanctuary
10:15 AM Confirmation Class—Parlors
10:15 AM Sunday School Rehearsal for Christmas
Program—SLC, Cafeteria
3:00 PM Advent By Candlelight—Parlors
6:00 PM Sr. YAT—Youth House

Monday, December 11th:

1:00 PM Goetsch/Wadzinski Women's Bible Study—
Parlors
5:45 PM Praise Team Rehearsal—SLC
6:00 PM JuBellation Handbell Rehearsal TBD
7:00 PM Men's Basketball—Gym

Tuesday, December 12th:

8:00 AM Blood Drive @ Blood Center of Northcentral
Wisconsin (8:00am-6:30pm)
8:00 AM Quilters—Parlors
9:30 AM MStaff Meeting—Lounge
12:00 PM LWML Women's Fellowship Christmas
Potluck—Parlors
6:00 PM Board of Elders Meeting—Parlors

Wednesday, December 13th:

9:00 AM Bible Study: Revelation—Parlors
10:00 AM Midweek Advent Worship—Sanctuary
5:30 PM Bible Study: Revelation—Parlors
6:30 PM Midweek Advent Worship—Sanctuary

Thursday, December 14th:

6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal TBD

Friday, December 15th:

8:00 AM Bulletin Assembly—Parlors

Saturday, December 16th:

8:00 AM Men's Bible Study—Parlors
5:00 PM Contemporary Worship—Sanctuary

Sunday, December 17th:

7:30 AM Traditional Worship: Choral Service—
Sanctuary
9:00 AM Traditional Worship: Choral Service—
Sanctuary
10:15 AM *NO Bible Study*
10:15 AM Confirmation Class—Parlors

10:15 AM Sunday School Christmas Program—Sanctuary
6:00 PM YAT Christmas Party—Youth House

Monday, December 18th:

5:45 PM Praise Team Rehearsal—SLC
6:00 PM JuBellation Handbell Rehearsal TBD
7:00 PM Men's Basketball—Gym

Tuesday, December 19th:

9:30 AM MStaff Meeting—Lounge
1:00 PM JOY Group—Parlors

Wednesday, December 20th:

9:00 AM *NO Bible Study*
10:00 AM School Christmas Service—Sanctuary
5:30 PM *NO Bible Study*
6:30 PM School Christmas Service—Sanctuary

Thursday, December 21st:

6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal TBD

Friday, December 22nd:

8:00 AM Bulletin Assembly—Parlors

Saturday, December 23rd:

8:00 AM Men's Bible Study—Parlors
5:00 PM *NO Contemporary Worship*

Sunday, December 24th: Christmas Eve

9:00 AM Traditional Worship—Sanctuary
4:00 PM Christmas Eve Blended Worship—Sanctuary
10:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship—Sanctuary

Monday, December 25th: Christmas Day—Offices Closed

9:00 AM Christmas Day Traditional Worship—Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 26th: Offices Closed

No Scheduled Events

Wednesday, December 27th:

9:00 AM *NO Bible Study*
5:30 PM *NO Bible Study*

Thursday, December 28th:

No Scheduled Events

Friday, December 29th:

8:00 AM Bulletin Assembly—Parlors

Saturday, December 30th:

8:00 AM Men's Bible Study—Parlors
5:00 PM Contemporary Worship—Sanctuary

Sunday, December 31st: New Year's Eve

7:30 AM *NO Worship Service*
9:00 AM Traditional Worship—Sanctuary
10:15 AM Bible Study: Revelation—Sanctuary
10:15 AM *NO Confirmation Class*
10:15 AM *NO Sunday School*
6:00 PM *NO YAT Events*

Monday, January 1st, 2024:

New Year's Day—Offices Closed
No Scheduled Events

Upcoming Worship Times

Saturday, December 23, 2023

*No 5:00pm Contemporary Worship

Sunday, December 24, 2023

9:00am—Traditional Worship

4:00pm—Christmas Eve Blended Worship

10:00pm—Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Monday, December 25, 2023

9:00am—Christmas Day Traditional Worship

Saturday, December 30, 2023

5:00pm Contemporary Worship

Sunday, December 31, 2023

9:00am—Traditional Worship



CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR, TINA DICKENS

Facilities/Properties

The Properties Committee is committed to working on one project per month moving forward to address some known concerns. Thank you to Allen & Shari Schroeder, who have generously donated the tree this year, which is going up the first weekend in December. The Properties Committee works (physically) hard to get the tree up every year with help from members of the Custodial staff and congregation. This annual project involves ladders, wires, and extension rods to get the lights on the tree. It is quite the feat and well worth the watch if you ever get the opportunity to help. The Stengl family generously gives their time to decorate the tree again this year. Please thank all of those involved!

Childcare Update

Please see the Childcare section of this newsletter moving forward for updates to that area. It's all pretty exciting news!

October Financial Summary

Repeat from last month in case you missed it...it's important that we all, as a congregation, understand this: We currently have 60 students enrolled through School Choice and a total of 175 students. This is a double-edged sword.

For every School Choice student, Trinity will receive \$9,800 (an increase of \$1,500/student from last year) in the *current* school year. School Choice participation requires that we spend that \$9,800/student per year on each School Choice student, *and* \$9800/student on each of our tuition paying students. Family paid tuition is *at most* \$2,800/student for *members* and \$4,500 for *non-members* (or members who do not meet attendance requirements*). The congregation pays *at least* \$7,000/student for *members* and \$5,300/student for *non-members**. This year, we need to spend roughly \$160,000 more than we needed to spend last year to stay compliant with this program – that is a BIG challenge when we try to keep tuition low for our families and cannot cover that additional expense with current tithes and offerings. We are in process of evaluating how to bring in more income to cover this. Our main sources of income are offerings, School Choice payments from the State, and family paid tuition.

The financial chart includes 4 line items at the bottom that show the “bottom” line for each area within the church. We are all one budget, but we do have individual responsibilities for our respective areas. There is also a comparison to last year in the chart. Highlights from last month's financials include:

Childcare:

- ◇ We are ready to add more children! With full baby (0-2 year-old) rooms, we have 13 babies in that age range on the waitlist. Childcare access is a BIG problem nationwide for a number of reasons – we are blessed to have a strong, qualified staff who are committed to sharing Jesus with these children and these families.
- ◇ Our biggest opportunity to bring children on is ages 2-4. Trends show that this age range was born during the pandemic, and they have never been in childcare.
- ◇ We are already seeing an influx of 4K inquiries for *next* year. We expect that to be a full class, which is exciting. Should we have a waitlist for 4K next year, we may consider splitting that class again.

School:

- ◇ See the above note regarding School Choice and the impact on finances this year. This is incredibly important and should be on everyone's radar.
- ◇ School financials continue to look good this year. We rarely get to report that.

Church:

- ◇ Tithes and offerings looked better in October – 95% of budget for the month and up to 90% for the year. While this is an increase over previous months, a 10% deficit from budget is concerning at this time of year. The bottom line is that Tithes and Offerings go to support the church, school and childcare operational expenses, so if we don't bring in what we expected, we cannot spend what we expected.

FINANCIALS—OCTOBER 2023

- ◇ This trend coincides with the announcement of the Estate gifts back in February. If we cannot correct this as a congregation, we will have to reserve the Estate gifts for operational expenses, for which they should not be used.
- ◇ If you have an idea about how we can be practicing better stewardship of the congregation's funds, or if you feel that we are not being good stewards in one area or another, please discuss that with Chad Schwantes, Chairman of the Congregation at chairman@trinitynet.org. We strive to be good stewards of the LORD's gifts.

OVERALL:

- ◇ Overall, we are in a good financial position ending October, but the downward trend of Tithes and Offerings is a big concern. As we try to grow ministry, we are concerned about having the resources to allocate to areas of interest. In short, people of the congregation want to see Trinity serving people in a meaningful way, but we don't currently have the resources to do everything we want to do.

We continue to pay down debt ahead of schedule. Debt is currently:

- Endowment Loan: \$77,208 ← Perspective...we borrowed \$212,000 from the Endowment in 2018 with the goal of paying it back in 15 years – We are WAY ahead of schedule with interest.
- Thrivent Loan: \$507,528 ← Perspective...this was just under \$1,000,000 when I began at Trinity in August 2015! We fully anticipate this being below \$500,000 by the end of this fiscal year.
- **TOTAL Debt: \$584,736**

Current account balances:

—Checking: \$100,040

—Savings: \$398,806

—Endowment: \$828,072

May God continue to work within you to continue to support the ministry at Trinity with time, talents and treasure in Fiscal Year 2024...we are excited about gathering people to grow in faith and share Jesus with all, and we hope you are, too!

	Oct 23	Budget	% of Budget	Oct 22	Jul - Oct 23	YTD Budget	% of Budget	Jul - Oct 22	Annual Budget
Income									
CHILDCARE INC	25,867	38,047	68%	21,234	99,947	134,659	74%	101,594	440,467
COUNCIL INC	96,930	101,525	95%	94,835	360,710	401,251	90%	361,014	1,237,677
ELDERS INC	8	45	18%	0	473	135	350%	0	450
SCHOOL INC	28,211	16,643	170%	14,560	345,879	308,024	112%	311,982	1,335,563
Total Income	151,016	156,260	97%	130,629	807,009	844,069	96%	774,590	3,014,157
Gross Profit	151,016	156,260	97%	130,629	807,009	844,069	96%	774,590	3,014,157
Expense									
CHILDCARE EXP	40,979	39,468	104%	25,427	163,776	157,722	104%	115,474	505,548
COUNCIL EX	14,495	16,680	87%	16,658	62,287	70,247	89%	71,967	617,200
ELDERS EXP	45,161	40,987	110%	36,141	180,269	165,232	109%	154,872	524,164
SCHOOL EXP	105,261	118,207	89%	123,506	431,149	457,694	94%	455,725	1,367,245
Total Expense	205,896	215,342	96%	201,732	837,481	850,895	98%	798,038	3,014,157
Net Income	-54,880	-59,082	93%	-71,103	-30,472	-6,826	446%	-23,448	0
CHILDCARE Net Income	-15,112	-1,421	-13,691	-4,193	-63,829	-23,063	-40,766	-13,880	-65,081
CONGREGATIONAL Net Income	82,435	84,845	-2,410	78,177	298,423	331,004	-32,581	289,047	620,477
LAY MINISTRIES Net Income	-45,153	-40,942	-4,211	-36,141	179,796	-165,097	-14,699	-154,872	-523,714
SCHOOL Net Income	-77,050	101,564	24,514	108,946	-85,270	-149,670	64,400	-143,743	-31,682

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS are 7:30am-4:00pm. Door #1 (the main door entering the lobby) will be open during office hours—anything else will need to be scheduled through the church or school offices. **Please Note: Offices will be closed Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th for Christmas.**

CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY UPDATE Harmann Studios is currently working on the proofing process for our new Pictorial Directory. We have been reaching out to Harmann Studios for more information and will share any updates they give us.

COFFEE HOUR SIGN-UP Is Christian fellowship within Trinity's membership important to you? Do you enjoy coffee and/or treats? Pray about hosting a Coffee Hour! Coffee Hour provides refreshments and fellowship opportunities between worship services on Sunday, and is a wonderful way you can serve! **Coffee Hour this year will be held every Sunday morning that there is a volunteer signed up** between the 7:30 & 9am worship services and between 9am worship and 10:15am Spiritual Growth Hour. Coffee Hour will not be held if there is no volunteer signed up. For more information or to sign up, please see the sign up sheet outside the Sanctuary.

Ramsey+ (Financial Peace University) It's not too late to get your FREE 12-month membership if you sign up before December 31, 2023:

<https://www.ramseysolutions.com/ramseyplus/hosts/trinitylutheranwi?pc=29518150>

MUSIC MINISTRY: UPCOMING EVENTS

Zion 150th Anniversary Advent Vespers Travel with Trinity's Sanctuary Choir to Zion Lutheran, Wausau, as we help celebrate their 150th anniversary with an Advent Vespers Service on Sunday, December 3rd at 4pm.

Advent-Christmas Choral Service Join us on Sunday, December 17th, at the 7:30am and 9am services for our Annual Advent-Christmas Choral Service featuring the Sanctuary Choir, JuBellation Handbells, instrumentalists and you!

Save the Date Join the musicians of Trinity on Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 4:00pm for a special Vespers Service celebrating God's love for us.

THANK YOU for your generous donations of plastic containers for the Parlors Kitchen! We have so many and are so well-prepared for the foreseeable future that we are no longer in need of these donations. Thank you!

ADVENT HYMN FESTIVAL: "ZION, CITY OF OUR GOD" will be held at Zion Lutheran Church (709 N 6th St. Wausau) on Sunday, December 3rd at 4:00pm. Our Sanctuary Choir and the choir at Zion will be singing.

SCRIP 90% of the Scrip fundraising program is required to be run by volunteers. Thank you to all of our volunteer Scrip sellers on the weekends between worship services, and thank you to Barb for weekly processing orders. *We could not utilize this amazing program that supports Trinity without each and every one of you.* **We are in need of volunteers to sell Scrip on Saturday evenings after worship—we currently have no one signed up at this time.** We are also in need of volunteers to sell Scrip Monday through Friday, 7:00-8:00am and 2:00-4:00pm. The commitment for these hours is no different than selling Scrip over the weekends. Scrip will be sold in the offices from 8:00am to 2:00pm until we have weekday volunteers. Scrip will continue to be sold at the counter in the Narthex after the 5pm Saturday service, after the 7:30am Sunday service until the 9am service, and after the 9am service until the 10:15am Spiritual Growth Hour. Scrip may not be sold during the weekends if there is no volunteer seller signed up.

ALTAR FLOWERS Thank you to all who provided altar flowers this year—they really brighten the Sanctuary and make our worship experience even more beautiful! The 2024 Altar Flower chart is now posted outside the Church Administrator's office—sign up today!

ASSOCIATE PASTOR CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE On October 24th the Board of Elders held a Town Hall meeting to discuss our next Associate Pastor. The Board of Elders would like to take the next step and form a Call Committee to work with the information we gathered at that meeting. We are looking for 3 congregational members to fill out the Call Committee. The complete committee will consist of 7 members: 2 from the Board of Elders, 1 from the Board of Education, 1 Teacher and 3 congregational members. The committee will begin meeting in December and will meet as needed until an Associate Pastor has accepted the call from Trinity. If you are interested in being on the Call Committee, please send an email either to elders@trinitynet.org or call Doug Beisner, Call Committee Chair, at 715-845-3095. We will take names through December 4th for the openings. The Board of Elders will decide the final members shortly after December 4th.

HOT CHOCOLATE GIVEAWAY Trinity will be handing hot chocolate out to our local community during the Wausau Holiday Parade on **Friday, December 1st**. We are looking for volunteers to help us with serving and clean-up for this service event! Sign-up sheets are located in the Narthex. Volunteer to share the love of Christ with our Wausau community by passing out cups of hot chocolate to the people who gather for the parade (6-6:30pm)! Prefer to stay out of the cold? You can also help out behind the scenes with filling cups (6:00pm) or clean-up (6:45pm) in the Parlors. Join us as Trinity mobilizes to perform this random act of kindness for our community!

GREATER WAUSAU CHRISTIAN SERVICES (GWCS) Our KIDS KOUNT program, now in its 25th year, provides gifts to children who have a parent in the Marathon County Jail over the Christmas season. These gifts are purchased through the generosity of many people. We welcome donations to help us with these purchases, along with wrapping supplies. We need helping hands to wrap the gifts, and we also need volunteers to deliver the gifts to the children. Participating in this event can be very rewarding! Please contact us if you would like to help (715-842-5635). You can make a difference!

BUY YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS NOW! Christmas cards are on sale now in the lobby at a price of \$8 per box. Buy yours today for the best selection.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2024 are available for pick-up this month in the Narthex. They are arranged in alphabetical order—thank you to Lynn Wadzinski for volunteering to set them out! If you are one of our home-bound members and would like to receive your envelopes via mail or visiting pastor, please let the church office know. If you are not currently assigned offering envelopes and would like a box for 2024, please let the church office know.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM Join us on Sunday, December 17th at 10:15am in the Sanctuary for “Celebrating the Nativity.”

FELLOWSHIP & PR is looking for more volunteers to serve on their committee! Under the supervision of Trinity’s Church Council, the Fellowship & PR Committee oversees the bringing together of our congregation through various events, such as Coffee Hour, Years of Service and Retirement recognitions, and other annual events like the Brat Fry & Corn Roast. If you are interested in serving on this committee or would like more information, please contact the church office. Thank you!



Congregational Officers

Chad Schwantes, *Chairman*
Chairman@trinitynet.org 715-355-3027

Ron Edwards, *Vice-Chairman*
ViceChairman@trinitynet.org 715-845-2972

Jamie Schlei, *Secretary*
Secretary@trinitynet.org 715-551-9400

Lenore Breit, *Treasurer*
Treasurer@trinitynet.org 715-370-8652

Board of Elders Elders@trinitynet.org

Doug Beisner	Tim Rock
Raun Egner	John Schult
Todd Hauer	Dan Schwantes
Craig Hoehne	Eric Sneider
Dan Oelke	Bob Zimmerman
Terry Page	
Bob Popelka	

School Board

Katie Claxton
 Barb Emerson
 Emily Jolin
 Sallie Kitzrow

SchoolBoard@trinitynet.org

James Kramer
 Dick Kriewaldt
 Stephanie Lynn
 Marie Traska

Church Council

Brian Barkow
 Dave Christian
 Darryl Neumann
 Chad Schwantes, *Congregational Chairman*
 Ron Edwards, *Congregational Vice Chairman*
 Jamie Schlei, *Congregational Secretary*
 Lenore Breit, *Congregational Treasurer*
 Raun Egner, *Chairman of Board of Elders*
 James Kramer, *Chairman of School Board*
 Rev. James Mayland, *Senior Pastor*
 Bill Zuelsdorff, *Principal*
 Tina Dickens, *Church Administrator*

ChurchCouncil@trinitynet.org



CHURCH & SCHOOL

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
TRINITY CONNECTION is published by
Trinity Lutheran Church
501 Stewart Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401

Electronic Service Requested

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE P A I D
WAUSAU, WI 54403
PERMIT NO. 320

In Loving Memory or Honor of

Help us decorate the church for Christmas! **If you'd like to place an order for one (or more) poinsettia(s)**, please fill out the form below and return to the church office by *Monday, December 4th*. Cost is \$15 each. Flowers may be picked up after the 9am worship service on Christmas Day. Questions? Please call the Church Office at 715-842-0769.

Name _____

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

Color: Red _____ qty. + White _____ qty. = Total Plants: _____

Total Cost: \$15 X _____ plants = _____ Pick Up? Yes _____ No _____

