

Trinity Lutheran Church

WORSHIP • FELLOWSHIP • SERVICE

January 2026

A NOTE FROM OUR BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT

Dear Church Family and Friends of Trinity,

As we step into a new year, it is fitting to pause and reflect with grateful hearts on the year behind us. It was a year of both joy and struggle—marked by surprises, challenges, moments of sadness, and times of uncertainty. Yet through it all, God has carried us, blessed us, and shaped us with His steadfast love, mercy, and unfailing faithfulness. *“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness”* (Lamentations 3:22–23). Gratitude steadies us. As we recognize God’s faithfulness, our hearts are prepared to step into 2026 with joy, hope, and deep thanksgiving. I’m ready—how about you?

The old has gone, and the new is here. God invites us forward with this promise: *“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness.* (Isaiah 43:19) When I read that verse my heart is filled with excitement and holy expectancy, that God is up to something good amongst us—even when it’s hard.



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When we dig into God’s Word, we are reminded again and again that we serve a God of the unexpected—a God who delights in working through untrained, unqualified, flawed, and ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. Scripture is filled with such stories: Abraham and Sarah, an aging couple long past hope; Joseph, an entitled teenager; Mary, an unwed young girl; David, a man deeply broken by sin; Peter, a disciple who quit when fear took hold; and Jacob, a deceiver and schemer. Even Bethlehem—a small, seemingly insignificant town not unlike Carrington—became the birthplace of our Savior. Time and again, God proves that He moves in ways we do not anticipate.

These stories remind us of a powerful truth: there is nothing we can do to disqualify ourselves from being people God chooses to work through. That truth should inspire us.

We serve a good and gracious God—one who uses ordinary people within our congregation to accomplish His will in unexpected and beautiful ways. And He is with us. Immanuel. Just because God did not answer our prayers in predictable or familiar ways in 2025 does not mean He is not listening, too busy, or absent from our lives. Jesus assures us, *“I am with you always, to the very end of the age”* (Matthew 28:20).

God continues to use the unexpected to do amazing things. Before us lie new opportunities, new relationships, and fresh beginnings. How might God be stirring your heart to take part in His work within this community of believers we call Trinity Lutheran? I am eager for all that God desires to do among us. Even now, He is at work—shaping, growing, and preparing each of us for what lies ahead in 2026. Do not ignore His call; embrace it. For God often calls His people in the most unlikely and unexpected ways to accomplish His purpose.

As we move into 2026 together, let us pray for one another and the church, remain rooted in biblical truth, and press onward in holy expectation.

Walking together in faith,
Claudia Park



Blast Supper will be
January 7, 2026.

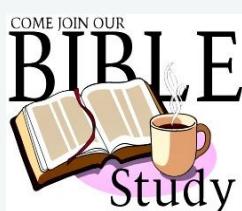
Serving from 5:15 to 6:15

Students and Families are invited.

B.L.A.S.T. classes will continue every Wednesday from 6:30pm-7:30pm for Kindergarten through 6th grade.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation class will continue on Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm—8:00pm



Women's Bible Study

The Third Tuesday of
every month at 9:00 a.m.
in the church fellowship
hall Bible Study goes
through May—Please let
Dorothy Fenske know if
you are interested in
attending

Trinity's Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 11th right after the service. If inclement weather, the meeting will be on Sunday, January 18th

BUDGET NEWS:

We would like to take a moment to share an important update regarding our church's finances. We believe that transparency is essential, and that the congregation should always be aware of both our blessings and our needs.

For at least the past year, our weekly offerings have been down. While we are grateful for every gift that has been given, our weekly giving has rarely met our weekly need. Even though we actually operated under budget in 2025, and even though we have planned an even leaner budget for 2026, we are currently operating with a deficit. While this is not completely unusual, or the first time this has happened, we still believe that sharing this information is essential.

We will have some upcoming expenses related to our pastoral search. These are necessary and important expenses for the future of our church, but they do add to our financial responsibilities in the coming months.

The purpose of sharing this today is not to pressure anyone, but simply to make sure our church family is informed. We know that people can only respond to needs they are aware of. At the same time, we want to express our deep gratitude for the generosity so many of you have already shown. Your faithfulness keeps our ministry going, and we truly appreciate it.

We trust that God will continue to provide for our church, and we trust that he will guide each of us in how we can play a part—through prayer, through service, and, as each is able, through giving.

Thank you for listening, thank you for caring, and thank you for being the church.

FEBRUARY FAITH IN SERVICE LIST

Membership of Trinity Lutheran is divided into 11 groups that each take a month to be responsible for tasks within the church. Each month we will be looking for ushers, lay readers, communion set-up, communion servers and coffee servers.

The list below is the service group scheduled for February. The coordinators for February are Karen Buskness and Morgan Wetzel. If your name is on this list, please check the calendar and see what Sunday(s) in February works best for you and call Karen(307-0290)or Morgan(649-6938) to volunteer. If you are called, please prayerfully consider how you can help. Please say yes when called. Thank you for doing your part and participating in our worship services.

Beumer, Janelle	Gussiaas, Don & Janice	Mittleider, Becky
Buskness, Bob & Karen	Gussiaas, Roger & Nurgul	Nelson, Charlotte
Cabler, Kristin	Guthmiller, Kevin & Merdyna	Reisnour, Cam
Cabler, Les & Joyce	Jensen, Jeff & Joanne	Rindy, James (Jamie)
Caylor, Don	Johnson, Blake & Anna	Rodacker, Arlene
Dalbec, Jolene	Klein, Kevin & Renee	Wolsky, Sue & Jim
Edinger, Gary	Koll, Jordan & Jodi	
Erickson, Larry & Kathy	Kollman, Rusty & Shelley	

TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF NOVEMBER 30 2025

<u>November Income</u>		<u>Disbursed</u>	<u>Weekly Income and Attendance</u>		
General	\$14,880.41	\$10,242.82	Weekly Need:	\$4,981.73	
B.L.A.S.T.	\$	-	11/02/2025	3,598.11	171
Mission	\$	\$	11/09/2025	2,627.00	130
Building	\$	\$ 2,952.75	11/16/2025	2,126.00	131
Total	\$14,880.41	\$13,195.57	11/23/2025	2,788.52	157
			11/30/2025	1,740.00	147
			Online giving for November	\$2,470.89	

Budget Report for January 1, 2025–December 31, 2025

<u>Categories</u>	<u>Disbursed to Date</u>	<u>Budgeted for Year</u>	<u>Difference for Year</u>
Missions	\$4,240.00	\$4,600.00	\$ 360.00
Staff Compensation	\$150,904.20	\$171,200.00	\$ 20,295.80
Congregational Life	\$18,119.76	\$15,600.00	-\$2,519.76
Operational Cost	\$52,759.16	\$67,650.00	\$ 14,890.84
WOW	\$24,241.76	\$38,100.00	\$13,858.24
Totals	\$250,264.88	\$297,150.00	\$46,885.12

COUNCIL MINUTES

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Minutes December 14, 2025

Attendance: Council members: Jodie Davis, Michael Simons, Claudia Park, Jo Pollert, Sheila Harrington, Jeff Knudson, Janice Gussiaas, Tara Rau, Markie Rosenau, Greg Gussiaas, Lori Solberg, Kerry Smith and Mike Neis.

Absent: Kelsey Neis, Kendra Beach, Morgan Wetzel.

Guest: Sheryl Roundy, Brinna Wolsky, Nick Pierson and Brooklyn Knudson.

President Michael Simons called meeting to order and opened with a prayer.

Minutes were reviewed, and Jeff made a motion to approve minutes, and Kerry seconded this. Motion carried.

Michael thanked and welcomed all guests.

President opening comments: We will be discussing the general criteria and qualifications of the call committee, then we will ask guest to step out when the discussion of the call committee candidates and voting take place.

Treasure report by Janice Gussiaas.

General Account: \$5,137.65 Missions: \$38,676.49

Janice reported that 10,000 – 12,000 is a comfortable monthly balance to cover payroll and other expenses. Discussed flexibility of accounts and which funds can and cannot be transferred from.

Parish Nurse notes were reviewed.

Deacon report: - Jodie

Deacons did not meet this month. January pulpit supply is nearly filled.

WOW : Lori and Sheila

Discussed offering retraining for our sound system and getting youth involved as they are more comfortable with technology. Looking into ways to make recording easier. WOW donated to the chair fund. Will be setting up for advent. February will be a supply drive for babies for daily bread in our church. Will provide a small lunch for 3 days of prayer.

Board of Education: Tara and Markie

Christmas Program went very well and was well attended.

Board of Trustees – Michael Neis

No meeting was held this month. Parsonage is cleaned and carpets and ducts will be cleaned this week. The chair drive is going well, and Trustees will be purchasing chairs soon.

COUNCIL MINUTES

Old Business:

Annual meeting is January 11, 2026.

Reviewed the annual budget. Jeff made a motion to accept budget and Sheila seconded this.

Motion carried.

Update on the nominating committee – we are still in need of a trustee and two deacons. We are checking on leads.

There are a few promising leads on an Interim Pastor.

3 days of prayer will be Jan 5, 6:00 - January 8, 6:00. Sheila will be in contact with a person to set up Sign up Genius for online signup and Jo will invite other churches to participate in this event.

Feed my Starving Children event is on January 23 and 24 with setup on Jan 22. 39,000 dollars has been raised. The event was increased by 1/3 with the high interest in our community.

New Business:

Jeff Knudson will be the new Foundation Liaison from the board with our current liaison's term on the council being done.

Call committee discussions:

After discussing a number of people to be one call committee, Jo made a motion to elect 4 people to committee. Jeff seconded this. Motion carried.

Mike made a motion to keep the nomination name confidential. Kerry seconded this and motion carried.

After dismissing guests, there was confidential discussion of the characteristics of the nominees, and a vote by ballot was taken. The call committee is: Vern Anderson, Teresa Edland, Tyler Hoggarth and Claudia Park.

Next meeting will be Sunday, January 18, 2026.

Sheila will do devotions next month.

Michael closed with prayer.

Sincerely submitted,

Jo Pollert

Trinity Lutheran Church council secretary

DECEMBER 2025 WOMEN OF THE WORD (WOW)

BOARD MEETING

The Women of the Word (WOW) board meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on December 8, 2025, by Co-President Sheila Harrington. Those in attendance were Sheila Harrington, Michelle Kliem, Julee Erdmann, Brenda Stokes, Mary Struxness, Karen Buskness, and Kristen Reinke. Amanda Bickett, Nikole Hoggarth and April Hoggarth were absent. Kristen Reinke shared a devotion.

Minutes of the November meeting: Were reviewed. Karen moved to approve the minutes and Brenda seconded. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Michelle presented the financial report for November 2025. The beginning balance for November was \$17,112.56 with deposits of \$1,299.00 and expenses of \$3,292.95. Bills submitted and paid in November: Dakota Dust Tex \$280.83, Michelle Kliem \$120.12, Foster County Independent \$42.00, Trinity (church support) \$2,850.00. Current bills to be approved and paid in December: Leevers \$ 192.31, Dakota Dust Tex (rug rental) \$183.05, Julee Erdmann (blast \$28.16, funeral \$9.99, funeral \$75.74) \$113.89, Jodi Davis (blast pizza) \$349.44 and Karlee Griffin (thankoffering recipient) \$1,223.00. ** Brenda made a motion to approve the treasurers report and pay present bills and bills we are waiting on. Kristen seconded. All were in favor.

Vice Presidents Report: Julee reported that there was three coffee hours for November, and two funerals. **Julee also mentioned that she never heard from Linda Schuster about the advent program. Not enough interest/helpers. ** Julee talked to Tom Sauby about what he thinks we should serve and charge for funerals. It was decided to offer only four options. Pricing will depend on what option the family chooses.

Fellowship Report: Karen reported that the Christmas decorating went well. Decoration take down is set for Saturday January 3, 2026, at 9:00 AM.

Stewardship Report: Kristen reported that the Thankoffering money will be sent off to Karlee Griffin. **Next for Stewardship will be Little Miracles Mission. This program will run the month of February.

Correspondence: No Correspondence.

Old and Unfinished Business: It was decided that WOW will do cookies, hot chocolate and coffee for World Day of Prayer on January 6th, 7th and 8th.

New Business: Sheila talked about Trinity's Chair Fund. Michelle made a motion for WOW to donate \$3,000.00 to the Chair Fund. Brenda seconded. All were in favor.** Feed my Starving Children will be at the Carrington Armory on January 23rd and 24th, 2026.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the church library.

Submitted by Mary Struxness

Check this out! – we are at **\$1,900.00** towards our \$5,500.00 goal. Something new --We are beginning a Chair Drive to replace the folding chairs in our Fellowship Hall as present chairs have been proven to be unsafe. A safer sample ‘new chair’ is labeled and located near the back of the church. In the future, we also hope to update the seating in our classrooms and the Faith Center. Thank you for your generosity and for helping to keep our church a safe and welcoming place for all. Donations may be given to the church office or in the offering baskets – be sure to designate “Chair Drive”. Ready – set – go!”



Call committee news:

Earlier, the Church Council asked for nominations of individuals willing to serve on the Call Committee, and we were truly blessed to have many faithful members step forward. Because of this servant willingness, the Council faced some difficult decisions. After prayerful consideration, they selected four members to serve on the Call Committee: **Tyler Hoggarth, Vern Anderson, Teresa Edland, and myself, Claudia Park.**

We extend our sincere gratitude to those willing to serve. Your readiness to step forward is a powerful reflection of the care, commitment, and love that define this congregation.

As the Call Committee, we recognize both the weight and responsibility of the task before us, as well as the challenges that may arise along the way. At the same time, we are humbled and eager to serve our congregation in this important role. We have held our first organizational meeting and begun the important work of refreshing our congregational profile—clarifying who we are seeking as our next pastor. We will also be working with Vanderbloemen, with whom we have a contract to assist us in this process, as well as **LCMC**, who is walking alongside us during this season of transition.

We will continue to keep you informed as the process moves forward, and we ask that you keep this journey in your prayers. This is a significant season in the life of our church—one in which prayer is needed more than ever. Please pray for wisdom and guidance for the Call Committee and the Council, and for God’s direction as we move forward together.

In the meantime, we have been blessed with wonderfully gifted individuals who are helping to lead our worship. Thank you for your prayers, your patience, and your continued faithfulness.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1
2 Rexton Aljets, Mike Balvitsch
3 Bob Buskness, Kylie Skadberg, Doug Smith
4 Mark Frost, Kimber Moravec, Laurie Struxness
6 Zoey Kollman, Cole Solwey, Kylie Solwey, Cory & Tana McKibben
7 Lynelle Bachmeier, Kade Erdmann, Shaunette Koenig
8 Cody Bickett, Kristin Cabler, Molly Fiebiger, Julie Kutz, Chris Schmid, Jerome Zink
10 Brooks Mozelle, Justin Backer, Nic Lyman
11 Indy Beach, Jaedyn Lura, Traci Lura
12 Tyler Ingebretson, Bradee Schroeder, Jenean Smith, Brewen VanRay, Val & Fred Piatz
13 Brittney Moravec
14 Gracie Carr, Kirk Stokes, Kenzie VanRay
15 Aubree Carr, Ann Hoffert, Rilynn Ingebretson, Emma Koll, Michael Rexin
16 Karen Buskness, Kaulder Kvamme, Jackie Schroeder
17 Kaydri Cabler, Emma Rindy, Grace Rindy, Jim Scheen
18 Jacob Edland, Val Ellingson, Linda Olson, Val & Lester Ellingson, Alicia & Christopher Gussiaas
19 Kelsey Carr
20 Skip Beach
21 Jameson Rzaszutak, Dan Wick, Jensyn Wolf
22 Kansas Hooey
23 Justin Dunn, Gary LaBelle, Mac Miller
24 Maddyx Davis, Trace Hoggarth, Heidi Johnson, Larry Schagunn
25 Lawson Lura, Vander Lura
26 Merrilyn Dahl
27 Susan Bickett
28 Fisher Cook, Cole Ferguson, Rhen Skyland, River Skyland, Marrah VanRay, Lee Sharbono, Gladys & Jerold Hertel
29
30
31 Paityn Knudson, Jordan Kramer



JANUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Happy New Year	2 Church Office Closed	3
4 9:30am Worship/ Communion 10:30am Coffee Hour	5 1:00pm Quilting 6:00 p.m. 3-day prayer Kickoff	6	7 5:15-6:15pm WOW Family Supper 6:30pm BLAST/ Confirmation	8 6:00 pm End— 3-day prayer	9 Church Office Closed	10
11 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 10:30 am ANNUAL Meeting	12 1:00pm Quilting 7:00pm WOW Meeting	13	14 6:30pm BLAST/ Confirmation	15	16 Church Office Closed	17
18 9:30am Worship/ Communion 10:30am Coffee Hour 10:45am Council Meeting	19 1:00pm Quilting	20 9:00 am Women's Bible Study	21 6:30pm BLAST/ Confirmation	22 FMSC Set-up	23 Church Office Closed FMSC- students 2-sessions	24 FMSC- Community sessions
25 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	26 1:00pm Quilting	27	28 6:30pm BLAST/ Confirmation	29	30 Church Office Closed	31

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Facebook: [trinity.lutheran.carrington](https://www.facebook.com/trinity.lutheran.carrington)

Sheryl Roundy - Secretary

Becky Pretzer—Secretary

Holly Zieman - Parish Nurse

Home: 652-3073

Cell: 652-5732

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



December 2025

**TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Worship Services are
Sundays at 9:30 am

Listen to us Sundays at 11:20 a.m.
on KDAK (1600 AM)

-or-

online at www.newsakota.com

Office Hours:
Monday – Thursday
8:00 am – 3:00 pm

