

The monthly newsletter of Trinity Lutheran Church & School in Fergus Falls, MN

Dear friends in Christ,

Time flies – whether you are having fun or not! We've reached the last month on our 2024 calendars, but December 1 actually marks the first day of a new church year as we begin the season of Advent. This church year you may notice some small changes that are brought about by switching the lectionary we use here at Trinity.

Maybe your first question is "What is a lectionary"? Fair enough. A lectionary is a set of prescribed Biblical readings for different Sundays throughout the church year. The Scripture texts that are read each week are not just the Bible passages that the pastor decides you ought to hear that week. Instead, those texts have been meticulously selected with the intent to convey the whole counsel of God's Word to His people.

In recent years we have made use of the three-year lectionary. The three-year lectionary rotates three different sets of readings, one per year, with the intent to cover the four gospels in conjunction with sequential readings from the epistles and Old Testament passages that connect with the gospel readings. The three-year lectionary is a relatively recent innovation, finding its origin in the late 1960s and reforms within the Roman Catholic Church. The chief reason for its adoption is that church-goers are exposed to a wider selection of Biblical texts in comparison to the one-year lectionary.

The one-year lectionary, also sometimes called the historic lectionary, is the lectionary that has been widely used across the centuries before the innovation of the three-year lectionary. This lectionary repeats the same readings on particular Sundays from year to year. This necessarily limits the quantity of Scripture passages that are read publicly during the Divine Service. The one-year lectionary used today is quite similar to the one-year lectionary used 60 years ago, and for that matter 150 years ago, and 600 years ago (with the exception of the introduction of Old Testament readings).

We will be making use of the one-year lectionary during the coming church year. You may wonder why, since I just remarked that this lectionary features *less* Scripture. There are a few reasons why. First, the use of this lectionary will offer us the opportunity to share continuity with the Christian church throughout the centuries and with our own congregation over time, as well. Preachers, musicians, and parishioners alike have had these passages at the center of worship across the centuries. Additionally, and perhaps paradoxically, there is a second reason: less Scripture might actually help one learn the Scriptures better. There is a saying that repetition is the mother of learning, and it surely is true. The repetition of the texts in the one-year lectionary allow a person to become more familiar with the content of these lessons, and as these texts have been carefully selected by the church across the centuries, they tend to cover, topically, the breadth of Christian teaching.

Much of the year, you may not notice. We will observe the ancient festivals and the seasons of the church year. Some Sundays will have curious, interesting names (like *Ad Te Levari* or *Quasimodo Geniti*), names that have historically been used for these Sundays and which are often derived from the Latin of the historic introits for those dates. One notable difference is the season of pre-Lent. The historic lectionary adds a three wk pre-Lent "season" between the Transfiguration and Ash Wednesday.

This is new for me, too – which is perhaps an odd thing to say about something that is hundreds of years old. I'm looking forward to walking together with you (and with those who have gone before us) through these readings in the coming year. If you have any questions along the way, let me know!

Of course, December brings with it an opportunity for joyous contemplation of the incarnation of our Lord. In addition to our regular Sunday services, plan to join us for Advent midweek services on Wednesdays at 11 AM or 6 PM. The Children's Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 15 after the morning service. Christmas Eve brings with it a candlelight service at 4 PM. Christmas Day, we gather to celebrate the birth of the savior with the divine service at 9 AM.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Lieske

Support our adopted seminary student

Matthew Kinne is originally from Hopkins, MN and has been studying at Lutheran Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN since 2020. He is married to Lauren and they have three children - Trinity-Ann, Josiah, and David. He area of special interest is rural ministry.

Matthew was assigned to Trinity for the 2024-25 academic year in the CTSFW Student Adoption Program. Please remember him in your prayers, and if you can support him financially, please make checks payable to "Concordia Theological Seminary" or "CTSFW" and write Matthew Kinne in the memo. Online giving can also be arranged at https://ctsfw.edu/studentgifts



Main Street Living

"AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14 On December 25th we will once again celebrate the birth of the incarnated Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth, Savior of the World! May we increasingly recognize, appreciate, and herald this best news of all to our neighbors and the world!

"MSL North" Programs for December 2024:

<u>Dec. 1:</u> **Rev. Daniel Suelzle,** Wittenberg Lutheran Chapel, Grand Forks, ND, presents the message: "Lift Up Your Heads", based on Luke 21:25-26. Lutheran Hour Ministries program: "Stable Boy" - A manger scene comes to life and tells the story of the first Christmas".

<u>Dec. 8</u>: Rev. Thomas Puffe, St. John's Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, MN, and Zion Lutheran Church, Warren, MN, presents the message: "Luke 3:1-14" based on the same text. Lutheran Hour Ministries program: "Red Boots Christmas" - A shoemaker learns the true meaning of Christmas."

<u>Dec. 15</u>: Rev. Scott Ramey, All Nations Lutheran Church, Rock Lake, ND, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rolla, ND, and Zion Lutheran Church, Munich, ND, presents the message: "Are You the One!" based on Matthew 11:2-4. Lutheran Hour Ministries program: "Christmas Is" - The shepherd in a Christmas play learns the importance of Christmas.

<u>Dec. 22:</u> Rev. Matthew Harrison, president of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, presents a Christmas message. This program is interpreted and closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. Visit www.mainstreatliving.com for more information. Lutheran Hour Ministries program: "Christmas on Main Street" - The Christmas message at a mission brings a grandson and his grandfather together.

<u>Dec. 29</u>: Rev. Daniel Voth, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, ND, presents the message: "Seeing Christ with Our Own Eyes" based on Luke 2:22-40. Lutheran Hour Ministries program: "Puzzle Club Christmas" - The Puzzle Club must solve a missing person mystery before Christmas.

"MAIN STREET LIVING" is a locally-produced TV program that includes a 30-minute worship service led by participating pastors of the Minnesota North and North Dakota Districts of our LCMS, along with a 30-minute Lutheran Hour program (normally *"This Is the Life,"* along with occasional church-season specials).

Programs are broadcast starting at **9:00 am** on Fargo-Moorhead: KVRR Channel 15.1 Programs are also archived for one year and can be viewed at any time on www.mainstreetliving.com then click on "Fargo".

Get to know the Trinity family!

Leon and Lori Dawkins, originally from Oakes, ND, married in 1975 and moved to Fergus Falls in 1985. We have two kids, Abby and Andy. We were blessed to have them attend Trinity Lutheran School from pre-school through grade 6. They continued their education in grades 7 through 12 at Hillcrest Lutheran Academy, graduating in the class of 2001 (Abby) and 2006 (Andy). Abby is married to Dennis Gerold and they and their two daughters just moved to Fergus Falls this fall, after Dennis' active service in the U.S. Air Force. He is currently employed as a physician at Lake Region Healthcare. Our son, Andy is married to his high school sweetheart, Tabetha, and they and their four children (2 boys, 2 girls) live in Hutchinson, MN, where Andy is employed as an engineer for 3M.

We are thankful for the blessing of children and grandchildren in our lives. Job(s) or former job(s):

Lori was employed at the Southeast Multidistrict Vocational Center in Oakes for 10 years, working as Administrative Assistant to the Director and Clerk of the Vocational Center School Board. After moving to Fergus Falls, she was employed at Otter Tail Power Company for 33 years, working in Shareholder Services, Administrative Department, Power Generation, and the Environmental Department, before retiring in 2018.

Leon was employed at Oakes Lumber and in Fergus Falls at Edgetown Lumber, Lampert Lumber, United Building Centers, and Builders First Source in retail sales. (Pretty much the same lumber company, just many different names!) Leon retired in 2017 after 44 years in the retail lumber business. He presently works part-time at Ottertail Glass, doing their table work.

Though we were employed outside the home, we thoroughly enjoyed the job of raising our two kids best of all!





Favorite activities, interests, or hobbies:

Through the years, we've enjoyed camping, canoeing, downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, biking, driving in our little MGB convertibles, going on mission trips to various places, and traveling to visit our kids and grandkids.

Music has always been a part of our lives, with church choir, Sunday School music, Carlisle Band, and Leon in the M-State concert and jazz bands. Lori and her co-worker, Vicki, have sung for quite a few retirement parties at Otter Tail Power, too.

Leon enjoys carpentry, stained glass, antiques, anything MG related, and cooking. Lori enjoys walking Lake Alice, her Pilates class at the YMCA, listening to audiobooks, taking care of our backyard birds, and tending her flowers and yard.

Something that you appreciate about Trinity Lutheran Church:

We love that we have faithful pastors that preach the true Word of God and administer the sacraments every week. From not knowing a soul when we moved to Fergus Falls, we've come to love our fellow church/school friends, through Bible Studies, school parent-teacher organization, choir, Sunday School music & activities, mission trips, and many other opportunities at Trinity throughout the years.

Favorite Bible verse(s):

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11 NIV



Thanks for sharing Leon and Lori! Who will be next! Contact JoAnn in the office.



Mercy Meals Packing Event

On November 2nd a goal of packing 10,000 meals was met and surpassed by the 43 people that came to help! 10,348 meals were packaged during a fast paced morning. All ages were able to help and be a blessing to needy children around the world!













GOD'S PEOPLE PRAY

Ongoing Concern: Janet Maack, David Boese, Brian Fitzner, Jeremy Elshaug, Elaine Culp, Ned Stueve, Gene True, Loretta Derke, Jennifer Wood (Jerald & Tami Gerhardson's daughter), Jim Anderson (Cal & Helen Johansen's friend), Jon Jastram (Phyllis Jastram's son), Dylan Maack (Bob & Janet Maack's grandson), Robin Roberts (Austin & Elaine Culp's daughter), Doug Litrich (Melvin & Marlene Reed's son-in-law), Stephen Hauser (David Hauser's brother), Brenda Keilen (Lois Fitzner's daughter), Tara Reynolds (Sarah Goerdt's friend), Jolene Kubitz (Donna Umlauf's niece), Micah Sebek (Bobbie Adam's grandson), James Hohenstein (Karl Hohenstein's brother) Kate Matter (prior pre-school parent), Craig Johansen (son of Calvin Johansen), Bridget Jackson (June Knopp's granddaughter), Jasmin Torvinen (great-granddaughter of Pastor & Ginny Lange)

Expectant Mother: Anna Flerchinger, Alesha Sorkness (Daughter-in-law of Schan and Shari Sorkness)

Homebound: Gary Froehlich, Dick Anderson, Lois Helm, Wally Lubben, Marlys Lueders, Ron Schulz, Evelyn Rud, Lorraine Drews, Lucille Scramstad, Lois Fitzner, Beverly Hess, Norma Bradow

Military: Callen Mouritsen, MN National Guard; Lieutenant Colonel Dennis Gerold, U.S.A.F. Reserves (Lori & Leon Dawkins' son-in-law), Tech Sargent Isaac Christopher, U.S.A.F., Andrews Air Force Base, Washington D.C. (Donna Christopher's grandson); Major George Hauser, DDS U.S. Army, Ft. Bliss, El Paso, TX; (David & Mary Hauser's son); Gabe Johnson, MN National Guard, (Ken & Toni Erlandson's son); Major Dinsmore, MD MN National Guard (Al & Marcie Koennicke's grandson)

Missionaries: Rev. Dan & Joan Jastram, Japan; Deaconess Kim Bueltmann, Germany (TIM Missionary); Delano & Linda Meyer, Africa; Jacque Breman, Africa; Ashley Lehr, Puerto Rico

Call the church office or the Pastor with prayer requests.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	2	3	4	5	6	7
9 am Divine Service 10:30 Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 Elders Mtg.	9:10 am Chapel 7:00 pm Dartball in DL	8 am Men's Bible Study 9:10 am Chapel 12:30 School Board Mtg. 2:00 Women's Bible Study 7 pm Trustees Mtg.	11 am Advent Service 4 pm Confirmation 5:15 pm Bell Choir Practice 6 pm Advent Service 6:45 pm Choir Practice	12:30 pm Quilters 6:30 Evening Circle	9 am Hebrew Study Group	10 am LWML Christmas Party
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9 am Divine Service 10:30 Bible Study & Sunday School 3:30 Youth Christmas	9:10 am Chapel	8 am Men's Bible Study 9:10 am Chapel 2:00 Women's Bible Study	11 am Advent Service 1 pm Knitting & crocheting 4:00 pm Confirmation 5:15 Bell Choir Practice 6:00 pm Advent Service 6:45 Choir Practice	12:30 pm Quilters	9 am Hebrew Study Group	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9 am Divine Service 10:30 Sunday School Christmas Program Potluck meal	9:10 am Chapel	8 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Foot care clinic 9:10 am Chapel 6 pm Council Mtg.	11 am Advent Service 4 pm Confirmation 5:15 pm Bell Choir Practice 6 pm Advent Service 6:45 pm Choir Practice	10am Broen Home 12:30 pm Quilters 5:30 pm Preschool Christmas Program	NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE 9 am Hebrew Study Group	8 am Men's Network
9 am Divine Service 10:30 Bible Study & Sunday School	23	24 4 pm Christmas Eve Service	9 am Christmas Day Service Merry Christmas! Church office closed	26	27	28
9 am Divine Service Food Shelf Sunday 10:30 Bible Study & Sunday School	30	31		A live up-to-date calendar is available online on the church website: www.trinityff.org	On-Call Pastor Phone Number (218) 321-0993	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH Fergus Falls, MN

CELEBRATIONS!

December Birthdays		December Baptismal Birthdays		
December 2	Al Koennicke	December 3	Ken Erlandson	
December 3	Ross Eberle	December 6	Wallace Mohs	
December 5	Norman Schoening	December 8	Albert Koennicke	
December 12	Grace Schneeberger	December 8	Kourtney Olson	
December 16	Joseph Eberle	December 11	Shawn Schneeberger	
December 16	John Haugmo	December 12	Melanie Longoria	
December 18	David Maanum	December 14	Holly Beighley	
December 20	Echo Breen	December 16	Gene Lindblom	
December 27	Donna Christopher	December 17	Kathie Lindblom	
December 31	Barb Peloquin	December 18	Brier Ness	
•		December 18	Joann Schultz	
December Anniversaries		December 21	Ronald Schultz	
December 12	David & Shawn Schneeberger	December 25	Sherie Goerdt	
December 20	Joel & Kristi Hedtke	December 27	Norman Schoening	
December 20	Al & Marcie Koennicke	December 30	Jonathan Neubauer	
<u>:</u>		December 31	Donna Umlauf	

SERVING IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

~==,::		~ '
Ushers for December	Greeters for December	Alta
December 1	December 1	Dece
Cal & Helen Johansen	Dale & Sharlene Schmidt	Sha
December 8	December 8	Dece
Jonathan & Annie Roehl	Donna Umlauf	Br
Eric & Karma Schneeberger	& Tami Gerhardson	Dece
December 15	December 15	Nar

Please let us know if your special date is

missing (or if you would prefer it not be

included in future years)

December 22

December 24

Stein, & Arnold Bolland

Rodney Schmidt, Dale Ken & Sue Heidorn Schmidt, & Jerry Schmidt December 22 Jerry & Shirley Pribbernow Gene Lindblom, Larry December 29

David & Esther Schlicker

Eders for December

Jon Schoening, Jeff December 1 - Wayne Goerdt Johnson, & Tim King Dec. 4 11:00 - David Houser December 25 Dec. 4 6:00 - Ross Eberle

Blaine & Margie Rasmussen <u>December 8</u> - Ken Erlandson & Bobbie Adam

Dec.11 11:00 - Aaron Schultz December 29 December 15 - Eric S.

Wavne Goerdt, Jakob Dec. 18 11:00 - David Houser Ness, & Mark Samuelson Dec. 18 6:00 - Wayne S.

> December 22 - Wayne Goerdt Dec. 24 4:00 - Ross Eberle

Dec. 25 9:00 - Ken Erlandson

December 29 - Gary Schmidt

ar Guild for December

ember 1 arlene S. & Tami G.

ember 8 Brenda J. & Bobbie Adam

ember 15

Nancy O. & Shari S.

December 22 David Houser

December 25 Margie Rasmussen

December 29 Char Dale

Acolytes for December

December 1 Ana & Analicia

December 8 Isabella & Austin

Tucker & Kourtney

December 22

December 15

Analicia & Noah December 29

Jackson & Adrian



LWML will have their annual Christmas Party on December 7, 10:00 AM, at "Toast" in Fergus Falls. Any and all ladies of the congregation are invited to attend. We will be making a donation to the Red Stocking at that time.



Trinity will be hosting our third annual Youth Christmas Party on December 8, 2024 from 3:30-6 PM. Confirmation and High School Youth from our fellow LCMS congregations across the region are invited to come. Let's have a good turnout of students from our own congregation to enjoy food, fellowship, and fun. Don't forget to wear your favorite Christmas sweater to participate in the sweater contest. An opening

devotion and hymn sing will be held at 4 PM. Some adult volunteers to help with various hosting duties are needed - contact Pastor Lieske for more information.



Hoodies for teens: Trinity will collect "Hooded Sweatshirts for Teens" for the Salvation Army Christmas again this year. The sizes that are needed are L-XXL. Our deadline is Sunday, Dec. 8th. Thank you for sharing your Christmas with the Teens of the Salvation Army! Place your new hooded sweatshirts on the table in the Narthex. If you have questions, reach out to Kristi Auck 218-205-1303.



The LWML are putting together goodie baskets for our shut-ins and would appreciate any goodies that you are willing to make be the last day to bring goodies. We are also looking for about 14-15 more tins to put the goodies in, so if you have any we would appreciate that too. Thank and bring to the church. We will be putting the baskets together on December 9 at 10AM (feel free to come help with that too!) so December 8 would be

the last day to bring goodies. We are also looking for about 14-15 more tins to put the goodies in, so if you have any we would appreciate that too. Thank you!



Advent lunches will be offered following the 11 a.m. services on December 4, 11, 18. There is a sign up sheet in the kiosk for those who want to donate food and help serve. A Thrivent card is available for the volunteer cooking the main dish. Proceeds from the Advent lunches will go to support children at Lutheran churches in the North District of Haiti.

There are six schools in Haiti that serve more than 1,400 students, and Adopt-A-Student funds are used to help pay the teachers, buy books and supplies.



The Preschool students will present a Christmas Program on December 19th at 5:30 p.m. ** The Sunday School Christmas Program, "Gifts for Baby Jesus" will be presented on Sunday, December 15th at 11:00 a.m A potluck meal will follow the program.



We are looking for a comfort blanket coordinator to offer support and encouragement to congregation members who have health needs. The blankets are already made. You arrange for delivery. Contact Kristi Auck for more information. 218-205-1303



Decorate the church with poinsettias for Christmas! Orders due 12/8



The next foot care clinic is on December 17th. Sign up in the kiosk.

November Fun with the Preschool Class

November has been a month full of fun and learning for our preschoolers! Around Election Day, we embraced the excitement of the season by learning about the election process. The children practiced their voting skills by casting ballots to decide who would read a story—Pastor or Mrs. Orpen. It was a close race, and the experience sparked curiosity and laughter as the children learned about making choices and taking part in a community activity.





When we weren't inside voting, we spent time playing outside and exploring the woods. The crisp fall air and natural surroundings offered endless opportunities for play and discovery. The children's imaginations and energy truly shine when they're out in nature.

Now, as November draws to a close, we're looking forward to the snowy season ahead! We're especially excited about the possibility of sledding fun this winter. If you have a sled that you no longer use, we'd love to put it to good use in our preschool program. Donations would help make our snowy adventures even more memorable.









The students are enjoying Music class with their new teacher, Mrs. Ratcliffe. During bonus music time, we have been working on our Christmas Program. Everyone is invited to attend the program on December 19th at 5:30 p.m.!





Thank you for your continued support of our preschool program. Here's to a wonderful December full of joy and play!





Trinity Homeschool Co-op in October

Trinity Homeschool Co-op in November

Wow! I can hardly believe that it is almost Thanksgiving! We've had a busy month. Each day starts with chapel & public speaking time. The chapel at the beginning of November the kids got to learn about, and act out, the crossing of the Red Sea.





Music class follows. The week after Mrs. Souer left, Leon & Lori Dawkins graciously came and sang with the children. Starting in November, Silvia Ratcliffe has taken over the music. Mrs. Ratcliffe is the wife of Rev. Keith Ratcliffe (LCMS

pastor at Immanuel

Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls) and has taught music in an LCMS grade school in the past. Though change can be hard, the kids have responded incredibly well to the change in teachers and Mrs. Ratcliffe is doing an amazing job. The kids are learning all about rhythm in music and the



older kids are delving deeper into music rhythm and reading notes.



We ended October with our rescheduled field trip to the Fire Station. The kids learned about fire safety and got a tour of the station. The kids got to climb into a real fire truck.



Later, the firemen put the moms on the spot and had some of the moms try putting out a fire with a fire extinguisher. The kids seemed to particularly enjoy seeing their moms deal with this pop quiz. (Some mothers may have been relieved that time did not allow for every mom to have a turn)



The first week of November we went straight to our November field trip and visited the Police Station. The students got to learn about all the gear a police office has to wear daily. The group was brought into the evidence room and got to see step-by-step how evidence is cataloged and put into lockers. Next the police officer showed everyone his S.W.A.T. gear and explained how it

worked. After this, the police man showed everyone the armored vehicle which looked pretty intimidating! The field trip ended with the kids getting to climb into a police cruiser and look around. The students found out the hard way that if they close the doors to the back seat in a police cruiser, they can't

open it from the inside. 2





The second week of November was craft week and some of the crafters joined us as Tenia Norman led us in making snowflakes out of puzzle pieces and Christmas cards. The snowflakes are Christmas ornaments for pastor to hand out during his shut-in visits. The Christmas cards are to hand out when we going Christmas Caroling in December.

Speaking of which, we will meet the first week of December and go Christmas Caroling to the Veterans' Home and Park Garden Nursing home. We plan to hand out Christmas cards to residents then. If anyone would like to join the Homeschool Co-op in this, please contact Michele Lieske.

Thank you all for your amazing support. This co-op is a blessing to many families and children who want to raise their families with a Biblical worldview all day long.

+ CHURCH & PRESCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION +

Church Website www.trinityff.org
Preschool Website www.preschoolattrinity.org
On-Call Pastor Number (218) 321-0993

Rev. Christopher Lieske, Pastor (cell) (612) 554-5411 pastorl@trinityff.org

Church Office /JoAnn Orpen (218) 736-4869 secretary@trinityff.org

Preschool at Trinity, Stacy Larsen (cell) (507) 430-9644

slarsen@preschoolattrinity.org

Church Office Hours Tues-Thurs 8:30-4:00, Fri 8:30-2:00

Church Office E-mail info@trinityff.org
Preschool at Trinity E-mail info@preschoolattrinity.org

Cemetery Sexton Cal Johansen (218) 671-0383

DECEMBER SERVICE PLANS

December 1 — Divine Service 4 — December 4—Morning Prayer

Hymns 517, 677, 679, 678, 659, 676 Hymns 342, 337, 389

Hymns 736, 738, 531, 732, 787, 894 Hymns 352, 356, 359

Hymns 509, 508, 671, 576, 514, 511

Hymns 772, 357, 352, 814, 933, 818 **December 29**—Divine Service 4

Hymns 384, 389, 374, 624, 381, 367

Financial Secretary Sandy King

Treasurer

Hymns 348, 338, 362

December 22—Divine Service 4 **December 24**—Lessons and Carols

December 25—Divine Service 4

Christmas Eve and Day Hymns TBD

SERVING THE LORD AND YOU

Trinity Congregational Officers Board Contact Persons

Cindy Schmidt

PresidentJon SchoeningEldersWayne GoerdtVice-PresidentSchan SorknessChristian Education E. SchlickerSecretaryCheri AndersonTrusteesMargie Rasmussen

Stewardship Larry Stein

Outreach Dave Schneeberger

School Dave Schlicker