



Dear Friends in Christ,

If we reckon holidays as days that the postal service doesn't deliver mail, or days that the federal government has declared as holidays, then January 1st is a Holiday. It is New Year's Day, though sometimes it maybe could be re-titled National Sleeping-In Day. When I was growing up, it was official College Football Bowl Day, though now those games have been spread over the course of the first week-plus of January. I am sure many families have other traditions that surround New Year's Day as well.

If we reckon holidays as "holy-days," or days when the church celebrates a festival... then January 1st is still a holiday. But the festival is not New Year's Day – after all, the new Church Year begins with the first Sunday in Advent, which is always in November or December. No, the holy day that the church celebrates on January 1st is The Circumcision of Our Lord.

The way that the Hebrew people reckoned days in the time of the Scripture was to count both the beginning and ending date of a period of time. While we would say that January 1 is seven days after Christmas, it would be the date that Christ would have been circumcised, in keeping with the law of the Lord. Way back in Genesis 17:10, the Lord made a covenant between Abraham and Himself. The sign of the covenant was to be this – that every male among the descendants of Abraham would be circumcised. What the children of Abraham would receive is grace and blessing from God and reconciliation with the Lord. Circumcision marked them as one of the Lord's redeemed, and made them children of the promise. The promises that the Almighty Lord had made with His people were fulfilled when that Almighty One took on human flesh, became incarnate, and was born of the Virgin on that glorious Christmas night.

If circumcision was a sign of reconciliation with God, why would Jesus be circumcised? After all, He did not need to be reconciled. Among all people, it was Him alone who did not bear the stain of sin. He did not need to be marked as one of God's people. For He alone had never rebelled against the Lord. So why would He be circumcised?

He was circumcised for the same reason He was baptized – to fulfill all righteousness for us. For all that He did, He did for us. Each step of His earthly life, Jesus participated in our earthly life, and circumcision was no different. But He did each thing with perfect righteousness, accomplishing all for us that we could not accomplish for ourselves. Apart from Christ, our lives are a shadow of what God had created us to be, clouded over by sin and death. In the life of Christ, we discover true humanity, the humanity of Eden, the humanity unstained by sin. His circumcision

was a step of His journey from the cradle to the cross, where He completed His work of restoring true humanity to each of us by overcoming sin, death, and the devil, once and for all.

Since Christ was circumcised for us, since He lived and died and rose again for us, we no longer are required to be circumcised. Instead of God's people (or at least the males among God's people) being marked in our flesh by the cut of the blade, now Christ marks His people with His cross, which was applied to each of us when we were baptized. Marked by the cross, we are reconciled to God by the shed blood of Christ, and we now live in the righteousness, innocence, and blessedness He has granted to us.

I pray that the Lord's richest blessings would be bestowed to you this new year, as we all live under the cross of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Lieske

When: January 6-13, 2025

Where: Mayaguez and Ponce Puerto Rico

Who: Lori & Leon Dawkins, Pastor Bill & Deb Aufdenkamp, Tammy McBride Nelson, Jerry Schmidt, Michael Wilshusen, Betty & Jay Johnson, Julie & Kerry Zimmerman, Shawn & Dave Schneeberger



Why: Support our local missionaries and their families in those two communities by completing tasks on the LCMS church grounds so they can continue to focus on their ministry outreach to the people in Mayaguez, Ponce and San Juan.

What: Preliminary list of projects in Mayaguez and Ponce:

*Mayaguez

- Fence around the property, cut grass
- Hang light fixtures, mirror, fan and towel rack. Redo closets and organize education center
- Laundry room – clean and organize, put bedding/towels/pillows in tubs, plastic screen on windows
- Change locks
- Strip and re-stain pulpit
- Tile outdoor kitchen countertops and finish walls – cement and cinder blocks

*Ponce

- Finish playground, fix bridge
- Attach rock wall stones to wall
- Sand and re-stain picnic tables
- Remove wood door frames and repair with cement, paint
- Clean up property that burned next to church

December was full of special events, music, and activities.



How can I get involved?

Trinity offers many opportunities to serve others, be creative, learn, grow, and enjoy valuable time of fellowship.

LWML – Bible study, fellowship, support missions world-wide. Contact Esther Schlicker 218-316-2924

Choir & Bell Choir – Seasonal rehearsals on Wednesday nights for a few special services each year. Contact Brenda Johnson 218-731-8475

Crafters – Enjoy making crafts to raise funds for various missions. Thursdays 12~3. Come when possible. Contacts Joanne Schultz 218-770-1420 or Karma Schneeberger 218-770-2032

Knitting and Crocheting – Usually meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. A variety of projects are being worked on to be distributed to people, children and adults, that need them. They are distributed through LAMP, Orphan Grain Train, and various other organizations that have a need for them. Contact Nadine Drevlow 218-770-3679

Quilters – Usually meets every Thursday beginning at 12:30 to tie quilts. Cutting squares and sewing them to make quilt tops can be done at home at your leisure. The quilts go to Veterans, silent auctions, hospice, all over the world through Orphan Grain Train, and to whatever need might arise. Contact Nadine Drevlow 218-770-3679

Lydia Circle – Usually meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month. The members work to serve the Lord among their community and abroad through Bible Study, special donations, mites, and serving. Contact - Nadine Drevlow 218-770-3679 (meeting 1/8 at Park Gardens)

Evening Circle – Meets on the first Thursday of most months for Bible Study. Contact Tammy Gerhardson 218-731-2450 (not meeting in Jan. or Feb.)

Men's Network – Meets on the 3rd Sat. of the month (Sept.-May) at 8 am for Breakfast & Bible study. On the 2nd Sunday of each month they provide the Sunday Morning Coffee. Contact Dave Schlicker 316-2924

Men's Bible Study - MEN OF TRINITY- You are invited to join your brothers in Christ, Tuesday mornings from 8:00-9:00 a.m. for an hour of Bible study at Trinity church. Contact Rudy Hasbargen – 218-736-3448

Women's Bible Study – Come and join us for our Women's Bible Study, held weekly on Tuesdays at 2 pm in the adult Bible Study room. We study a variety of topics in our one-hour sessions and welcome insights and discussion among our participants. We generally meet during the school year. Contact Lori Dawkins at 218-731-6512

oLori.dawkins75@gmail.com

Outreach Board - Meets monthly with the main emphasis in three areas: Local outreach involves the greeter and visitor program for welcoming new members to the Trinity family as well as spreading the word about Trinity in our community and the surrounding area. Global outreach involves spreading the message of Jesus to those who may not have heard and helping our neighbors around the U.S. and beyond by teaching Vacation Bible School, helping with disaster relief and going on mission trips to help those in need or to support our missionaries abroad. Human care involves providing assistance to those in need through financial or material support on a local and global basis. Contact Dave Schneeberger 218-205-6587

LAMP (Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots) is an international organization that we partner with to share the message of Jesus with the children and adults in two communities in northern Manitoba. We have been bringing a VBS program to Norway House and Shamattawa, Manitoba since 2009. We have also had volunteers make trips to Shamattawa during the school year to go into the school classrooms to share stories, sing songs, deliver Trinity Knitter's stocking caps, and spend time with the children and teachers/administration. Contact Dave Schneeberger 218-205-6587

LERT (Lutheran Early Response Team) is a group of volunteers from Trinity who have been trained to respond to disasters domestically and internationally by providing relief and help to those in need. There are on-going opportunities for the initial training as well as basic chainsaw training for anyone interested in being a part of these disaster relief efforts. Contact Dave Schneeberger 218-205-6587

Planned Giving Committee meets on an as needed basis, educating and encouraging congregation members to support the long term future of our congregation through their estate planning decisions. The Endowment board meets as needed to review and monitor the Endowment funds that have been entrusted to Trinity Lutheran Church. They review the grant applications and disburse funds to the groups and organizations who qualify. D. Schneeberger 218-205-6587

Dartball is a fun, social activity for the men of Trinity, with no skill or experience required. They meet monthly from September through April to play games and fellowship with the men from Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Moorhead and Zion Lutheran Church in Detroit Lakes. The games rotate between the three churches and include an opening devotion, a supper provided by the host team and then three games of dartball, darts thrown underhand at a baseball dart board with scoring similar to a regular baseball game. D. Schneeberger 218-205-6587

God's mission for Shamattawa

God's plan for our trip to Shamattawa was evident from the start in spite of the planning we had done. The three previous flights into Shamattawa from Winnipeg had been unable to land due to low cloud cover and it appeared that was going to be the case again as we made our approach to the runway and had to pull up for the same reason. We made a second pass and God's hand became clear as we were able to successfully find the runway. Randy Heide and Michael Gillingham, LAMP missionaries, Robert Nelson from Bismarck who had also joined our summer VBS team to Norway House and Dave Schneeberger had the opportunity to spend time with the children and adults in Shamattawa. The landscape had changed once again since we were here last as the band office and fire hall had been destroyed by fire as we made our way to the school in the back of the pickup. We met the new school administration and discussed the plan for our time in the school. The school day was almost over, but the opportunity presented itself for us to spend time with the high school math students. As Pastor Randy was sharing the Christmas story and a message of hope, other students kept coming into the room as the teacher invited them in and soon the room was full. After Michael the musician rocked the room with a couple of songs, we handed out a few items and were saying goodbye to the group when a few of the former VBS kids stuck around to visit while others had questions and spent some time in deeper discussion. Michael and Bob had a conversation with one of the young men who asked some pretty deep questions about God and his love for people. Michael said he appreciated his training as a church worker and his ability to remember some Bible verses and also Luther's comments on the issue of predestination and the mysteries of God's knowledge and power when that question came up. He also appreciated the comments Bob made and his ability to address the issue in another way while making some complicated theological ideas easier to grasp and understand.

We started the next day helping serve breakfast to the kids as they arrived at school. We were able to spend time in most of the classes from Nursery to Grade 7 where Pastor Randy shared the Christmas story message using The Christmas Journey booklet from Lutheran Hour Ministries, Michael led the classes in two songs and we gave coloring sheets, cross key chains, Christmas activity booklets and knit stocking caps (toques) that had been handcrafted with love from our Trinity Lutheran knitters, to each of the children. A funeral resulted in the school being closed on our last day which provided us the opportunity to spend time straightening up the books in the library for them and were given a tour of some areas of the community I had never seen before as one of the teachers took us on a longer, more scenic route to the airport. It was truly a blessing to spend time with the kids and adults in the community, to see their smiling faces and receive their hugs, to catch up with some of kids who have attended VBS in the past, to strengthen relationships and to share the Christmas message of Jesus with all of the students in the classrooms.

Our ability to have the opportunity to continue this mission and outreach is immeasurable with the seeds we plant each time we come in contact with the children and adults in the Shamattawa community. Thanks to the members of Trinity Lutheran Church and School for your prayer and financial support as well as your knitting efforts in making this mission possible. Your continued prayers for the community and school leaders who are working to make a difference and for the children and other adults to remain receptive to God's ministry and mission for Shamattawa are greatly appreciated. To God be the glory!! (photos on page 11)

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), 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, Lorraine Drews, Lucille Scramstad, Lois Fitzner, Beverly Hess, Norma Bradow, Marilyn A. Boese

Military: Callen Mouritsen, MN National Guard; Lt. Col. 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); Lt. Col. 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

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH Fergus Falls, MN</p>	<p>A live up-to-date calendar is available online on the church website: www.trinityff.org</p>	<p>On-Call Pastor Phone Number (218) 321-0993</p>	<p>1 New Year's Day! Church office closed</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 9 am Hebrew Study Group</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 9 am Divine Service 10:30 Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 Elders</p>	<p>6 9:10 am Chapel 11:00 & 6:00 Epiphany services 7:00 Dartball</p>	<p>7 8 am Men's Bible Study 9:10 am Chapel 1:00 School Board Mtg. 7:00 pm Trustees Mtg.</p>	<p>8 1 pm Knitting & crocheting 1 pm Lydia Circle @ Park Gardens 4:00 pm Confirmation</p>	<p>9 12:30 pm Quilters</p>	<p>10 9 am Hebrew Study Group</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 9 am Divine Service 10:30 Bible Study & Sunday School</p>	<p>13 9:10 am Chapel</p>	<p>14 8 am Men's Bible Study 9:10 am Chapel</p>	<p>15 4 pm Confirmation</p>	<p>16 10am Broen Home 12:30 pm Quilters</p>	<p>17 9 am Hebrew Study Group</p>	<p>18 8 am Men's Network 9 am LWML</p>
<p>19 9 am Divine Service 10:30 Bible Study & Sunday School</p>	<p>20 9:10 Chapel NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE</p>	<p>21 8 am Men's Bible Study 9:10 am Chapel 2:00 Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Church Council</p>	<p>22 1 pm Knitting & crocheting 4:00 pm Confirmation</p>	<p>23 12:30 pm Quilters</p>	<p>24 9 am Hebrew Study Group</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 9 am Divine Service Food Shelf Sunday 10:30 Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 Annual Meeting</p>	<p>27 9:10 am Chapel</p>	<p>28 8 am Men's Bible Study 9:10 am Chapel 2:00 Women's Bible Study 9-1:30 Foot Care Clinic</p>	<p>29 4 pm Confirmation</p>	<p>30 12:30 pm Quilters</p>	<p>31 9 am Hebrew Study Group</p>	

CELEBRATIONS!

January Birthdays

January 2 Wayne Goerd
 January 4 Jeff Johnson
 January 4 Jordyn Olson
 January 5 Asher Mort
 January 9 Rodney Schmidt
 January 12 Margie Rasmussen
 January 13 Erika Neubauer
 January 17 Vickie Melby
 January 19 David Hauser
 January 20 Taylor Ness
 January 23 Rev. Christopher Lieske
 January 25 Tucker Schneeberger
 January 29 Anna Mort

January Anniversary

January 1 Wayne & Sarah Goerd

January Baptismal Birthdays

January 1 Paul Meyer
 January 3 Susanne Halverson
 January 8 Echo Breen
 January 8 Caleb Flerchinger
 January 11 Lilli Ann Ness
 January 14 Andrew Krog
 January 17 Vickie Melby
 January 21 Donna Christopher
 January 21 Asher Mort
 January 23 Cynthia Schmidt
 January 23 Grace Schneeberger
 January 29 Wayne Goerd
 January 31 Margie Rasmussen
 January 31 Liam Flerchinger

Please let us know if your special date is missing (or if you would prefer it not be included in future years)

SERVING IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

Ushers for January

January 5
 Gary Schmidt,
 Rachael & Trevor Larson
January 12
 Ross & Tina Eberle,
 David Schneeberger
January 19
 Wayne Schoening
 Cal & Helen Johansen

January 26

Jonathan & Annie Roehl
 Eric & Karma Schneeberger

Greeters for January

January 5
 Cal & Helen Johansen
January 12
 Dale & Sharlene Schmidt
January 19
 Donna Umlauf &
 Tami Gerhardson
January 26
 Ken & Sue Heidorn

Eders for January

January 5
 Aaron Schultz
January 6 11:00
 David Hauser
January 6 6:00
 Wayne Schoening
January 12
 Wayne Goerd
January 19
 Eric Schneeberger
January 26
 Ken Erlandson

Altar Guild for January

January 5
 David & Esther Schlicker
January 6 11:00
 Nadine Drevlow &
 Nancy Olson
January 6 6:00
 Cal and Helen Johansen
January 12
 Ken & Sue Heidorn
January 19
 Margie Rasmussen
January 26
 Brenda Johnson &
 Bobbie Adam

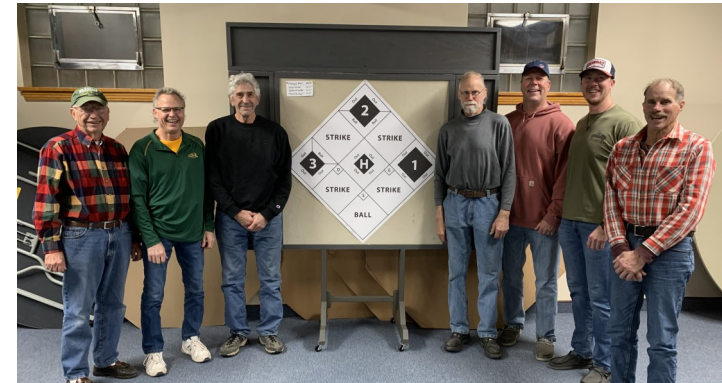
Acolytes for January

January 5
 Samuel & Ainsley
January 12
 Austin & Ana
January 19
 Kourtney & Isabella
January 26
 Noah & Tucker

Shamattawa Mission Trip



What is Dartball? Read the description on page 5 and check out these photos! Trinity hosts on Jan.6th at 7 pm at Immanuel Lutheran



Preschool Joy: Celebrating Christ's Birth and Winter Adventures

The preschoolers have been overflowing with joy and excitement this December as they learned about the story of Christ's birth. Through stories, crafts, and songs, the children explored the true meaning of Christmas and how Jesus' love is the greatest gift of all. Their enthusiasm was truly heartwarming as they prepared for our Christmas program, practicing songs that will surely bring smiles and holiday cheer to everyone.

Outside the classroom, the fun continued in the snow! From making countless snow angels to exploring the winter wonderland in the woods, the children's laughter echoed through the chilly air. Their adventures included discovering animal tracks, pretending to be woodland explorers, and marveling at the beauty of God's creation in this magical season.

We are so thankful for the support and encouragement of our church family. Your prayers and kindness make these experiences possible for our preschoolers and allows them to grow in faith, friendship, and wonder.

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, we are filled with gratitude for this community and the joy we see in our little learners. Thank you for being a blessing to our preschool program!

Merry Christmas and blessings to you all! -Mrs. Stacy A. Larsen



Trinity Homeschool Co-op in December

Trinity Homeschool Co-op had a shorter month in December. Live gets busier with Christmas activities and church services so we only meet the first week in December. This December meeting is a favorite of mine though!



We met the first week of December and after chapel, public speaking, we had our music class with Ms. Sylvia Ratcliffe. The kids are getting to use some basic percussion instruments with songs. As you can see, they had a blast with that. After the younger kids were dismissed, the older kids got to learn a bit more complicated techniques using boom whackers and a xylophone. It's really neat to see how much they are learning!



Following music class, we got to my favorite part of the year, we got to do our annual Christmas caroling at nursing homes!

This year we visited Park Gardens and Mill Street Residence. We usually visit the Veteran's Home but they canceled on us due to sick staff members. This was our first year caroling at Mill Street Residence and we were well-received. The staff and residence all seemed thrilled to have us there and the students sang beautifully. We also handed out an ornament and Christmas card, both made by the students in November. Following our time caroling at Mill Street Residence, we had a short lunch break then headed over to Park Gardens. This is our third year at Park Gardens and they've come to expect us. This year we got to sing to them in their dining hall while they had lunch. There were lots of smiles and bobbing heads as the kids sang. Even some of the staff got into it, shouting appreciation after many of the songs. Again, we gave a Christmas card and ornament made by the students before we headed back to Trinity. We followed up our caroling with our annual cookies & cocoa Christmas party in the gym. The kids had a blast and it was a great way to finish up this semester. We look forward to picking back up in January.

On Sunday, January 26th, for National Lutheran Schools Week, our co-op kids will be singing one of the songs they have been working on in music class. I hope you are all able to be at church that Sunday to hear them!



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.

If you know anyone who would like to join the Homeschool Co-op in this, please contact Michele Lieske: MicheleLieske@gmail.com

+ 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

JANUARY SERVICE PLANS

January 5 — Divine Service 4 Hymns 393, 385, 361, 377, 364, 373	January 19 —Divine Service 3 Hymns 824, 402, 644, 845, 822, 408
January 6 — Divine Service 3 <i>The Epiphany of our Lord</i> Hymns 396, 395, 397, 399	January 26 —Divine Service 3 Hymns 598, 401, 616, 594, 664, 571
January 12 — Divine Service 3 <i>The Baptism of Our Lord</i> Hymns 837, 406, 404, 426, 405, 917	

SERVING THE LORD AND YOU

Trinity Congregational Officers		Board Contact Persons	
<i>President</i>	Jon Schoening	<i>Elders</i>	Wayne Goerd
<i>Vice-President</i>	Schan Sorkness	<i>Christian Education</i>	E. Schlicker
<i>Secretary</i>	Cheri Anderson	<i>Trustees</i>	Margie Rasmussen
<i>Treasurer</i>	Cindy Schmidt	<i>Stewardship</i>	Larry Stein
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Sandy King	<i>Outreach</i>	Dave Schneeberger
		<i>School</i>	Dave Schlicker