

February 2025

Birthdays

- 1 - Gabriel Schieber
- 2 - Angie Johnson
- 3 - Nick Reynolds
 - Nathan Bangert
 - Emma Showalter
 - Joe Baumann
- 4 - Madi Vanness
- 5 - Rev. Zachary Voss
- 7 - Christal Burns
 - Lydia Baumann
- 8 - Jean Morgan
 - Eva Schnabel
- 9 - Deb Behn
- 12 - Amelia Brooks
- 13 - Jonah Bollhagen
- 14 - Ann Flickinger
- 15 - James Hansen
- 16 - Lukas Showalter
- 19 - Greg Moore
- 20 - Kendra Voss
 - Jordan Poock
 - Trey Barz
 - Mark Westhoff
 - Vicar Jacob Shepard
- 21 - Troy Hansen
 - Isabell Akers
- 25 - Elijah Schieber
 - Luke Westhoff
- 26 - Peter Bollhagen
 - Sarah Westhoff
- 27 - Elijah Fink



Ushers

Adam Akers, Chr.
Bruce Harris
Gary Sheppard
Nathan Subbert

Greeters

Lynn & JoEllen Arends
Jamie & Jodi Patton
Kay Sheppard

Acolytes

- 2 - Evan Waechter
- 9 - Lane Haller
- 16 - Noah Behn
- 23 - Colin Harr



If you are unable to make Sunday morning worship and wish to receive small group or individual communion, please call the church office. This is being offered in place of the monthly Special Needs service.

Anniversaries

- 1 - Arlynn & Julie Ahrens (50)
- 16 - Cliff & Ruth Berghoefter
- 23 - Jamie & Jodi Patton
- 28 - James & Kay Stahl (70!)



God's blessings on
your marriage!

Trinity is invited to the Installation Service for Pastor Bollhagen on Sunday, February 23rd at 3:00 PM.
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
419 N. Delaware Ave.
Mason City, IA 50401



Wednesday, February 5th at 2 PM

Devotions/Bible Study:
Beth Fink
Hostess:
Denise Grell

All ladies are invited!

Attention Thrivent Members:

The deadline to designate your 2024 Choice Dollars is March 31, 2025. You may phone Thrivent at 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt, call the Iowa Falls office at 641-648-2067, or go online at <https://thrivent.com/thriventchoice>. Please have your Member ID available. Thank you.



Seeking Ushers and Greeters

It is time for the 2025-2026 Usher and Greeter list to be updated. There will be a form in your mailbox this week. **Please return it by Monday, February 17th.**



Please consider volunteering if you have never done so before or consider volunteering for two months out of the year.

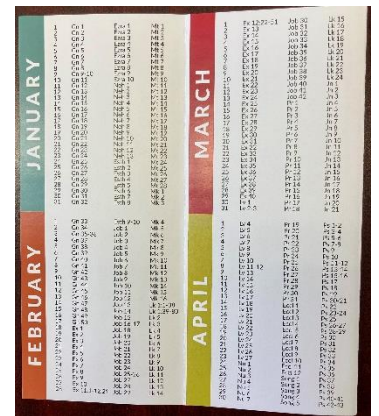
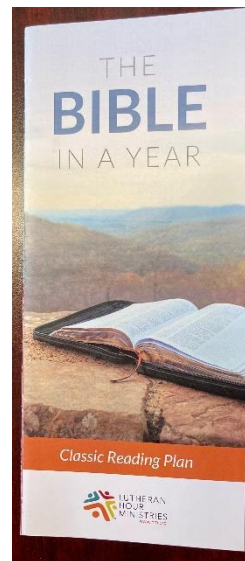
We are in special need of additional ushers and greeters in the month of October.

If you are currently an usher and/or greeter and do not return your form, you will be put on the same month as last year. Thank you in advance!

The Bible in a Year

Interested in a plan to read the whole Bible in a year?

The Evangelism committee has ordered the classic reading plan of The Bible in a Year which gives you a daily reading schedule. If you are interested, these booklets are available in the Project Connect carousel in the Narthex.



Remember our shut-ins with your prayers, cards, and visits...

- *Country View Nursing Facility:
Jennie Dellinger, Melba Muhlenbruch, Tillie Nelsen
- *Franklin General Assisted Living:
Merlin Behn, Dixie Schmitt
- *Rehabilitation Center of Hampton:
Jamie Fink, Kathy Jones, Mardell Jorgensen
- *Good Shepherd Health Center:
Jean Morgan
- *At Home: Jerry Meyer
- *Other members at home who may not be able to come to church.

The Evangelism committee would like to thank all the Lutheran Hour Broadcast supporters this past year.



Enjoy the crossword puzzle on Proverbs in this month's newsletter. Hint: some verses may come from the KJV Bible.

From Vicar Stefanec...

Dear Trinity,

As we continue to consider how Old Testament individuals foreshadow Christ, we look to Samson. Samson was a judge of Israel, during a time when men did what was right in their own eyes. The people of Israel fell into idolatry and served Baals (Judges 2:11). So, "The Lord raised up judges who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them," (2:16). Similarly to Christ, Samson's birth was miraculously announced. The Angel of the Lord appeared to his parents at a time when Israel was given into the hands of the Philistines for forty years. "Behold, you are barren...but you shall conceive and bear a son," (13:3).

Samson has profound strength, assuming his hair is not cut. However, Samson sins by choosing to take a Philistine woman as his wife, which is forbidden by the Law lest pagan wives lead Israel into further idolatry (Deuteronomy 7:3-4). Eventually, Samson is seduced by a prostitute in Gaza who learns that cutting his hair will remove his strength, and he is captured by the Philistines. They remove his eyes and have a sacrifice of celebration to their God. They call Samson in to entertain them, but he prays for his strength to return. Samson pulls the two middle pillars together, and the structure they are in falls down upon the Philistines and buries them along with Samson in the Earth (Judges 16:23-31). So, Samson partook in the sin of his people, and subjected himself to the slavery of the nations just as Israel did to themselves.

So it is also with Christ. Christ too is born to a barren womb, for no virgin can conceive a child on her own. While Samson partook of the sin of his people, Christ who knew no sin of his own became sin for our sake and assumed the sin of his people upon himself. While Israel was adulterous and married foreign wives and worshipped false gods, Christ took all their adultery and idolatry to the cross. Just as Samson was made a prisoner by pagans and tore down the edifice of idolatry upon himself, Christ was handed over to the Gentiles and was crucified so that he might destroy the sin,

unbelief, and idolatry of all mankind. Just as Samson died in tearing it down, Christ was buried into the earth so that he might defeat sin, death, and Satan.

Let us then look to Christ as the one who has destroyed the sin of the nations and delivered us from the rule of false gods. He has made us his own special possession so that we are free to be people of God.

For Prayer: O Father, I too am a defeated sinner, spiritually blind and in bondage to the devil according to my sinful flesh. Remember me, Lord. Give me strength to carry out what you have called me to do. May Christ in his sacrifice pull down the works of Satan and deliver me from captivity. In his name I pray, Amen.

(From The Lutheran Study Bible).

