

# January 2025

## Birthdays

- 1 – Matthew Sheppard
- 3 – Marvel Burmester (90)  
Michael Birdsell
- 4 – Gary Brinkley  
Robert Kloetzer  
Kari Subbert
- 5 – Jaxon Moats
- 8 – Lincoln Hansen
- 11 – Katherine Harr
- 14 – Phil Hauser
- 15 – Lynn Arends
- 16 – Cindy Koch  
Kent Koch
- 18 – Pam Koenen
- 22 – Gerry Heilskov  
Sarah Hansen
- 23 – Charles Showalter
- 26 – Mark Rodemeyer  
Jolene McWilliams  
Marizza Shepard
- 28 – Matt Showalter
- 31 – Cameron Arends  
Noah Behn



## Ushers

- |                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Jay Behn, Chair | Randy Grefe |
| Jim Moats       | Jaxon Moats |

## Greeters

- Larry & Deb Behn  
Michelle Giddings  
Mike & Donna Spetman

## Acolytes

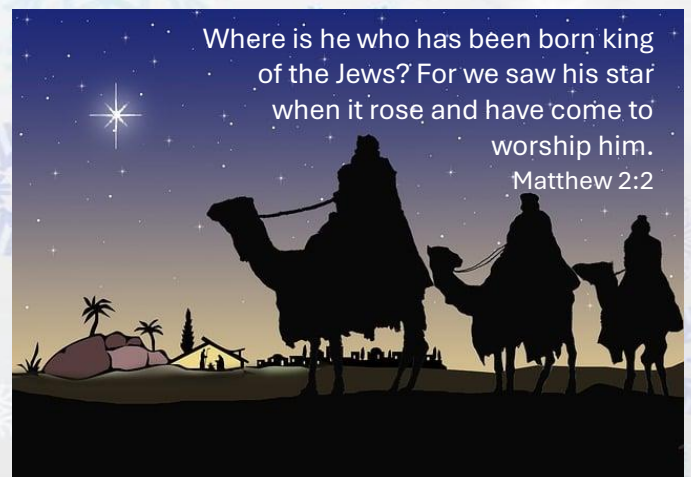
- 5 – Noah Behn  
12 – Colin Harr  
19 – Slade Pigman  
26 – Henry Subbert



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 – Alan & Deb Brown  
Micah & Audrey Brooks
- 5 – Jacob & Marizza Shepard
- 18 – Gary & Karen McVicker



## Baby Shower



Please join us after church on January 5<sup>th</sup> to celebrate with Vicar, Abigail, and Oliver expecting Baby Eden in February. Muffins, fruit, coffee and punch will be provided.

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:

Daisy Bentrott, Jamie Fink

\*Good Shepherd Health Center:

Jean Morgan: Room A189, Box 1707

302 2<sup>nd</sup> St. NE Mason City, IA 50402

\*At Home: Jerry Meyer

\*Other members at home who may not be able to come to church.



Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>  
at 2:00 PM

Devotion/Bible Study:

Judy Hankom

Hostess:

Mary Hadley

All ladies are invited. Please join us!

## Special Meetings this Month

- Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> (after church) Informational Meeting on the multi-congregational sharing agreement
- Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM Church Council Meeting
- Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> (after church) Quarterly Voters' Meeting

## Annual Report Deadline

Church Boards and other groups: Please have your annual reports for 2024 to the church office by Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>.

Also, please let the church office know about any address and/or phone number changes so that the church directory is up to date. Thank you!

We are blessed with many volunteers here at Trinity. Thank you for your help in 2024!



## From Vicar Stefanec...

As we soon conclude the Christmas season and enter Epiphany, we should remember that Christ is the King of the world. However, he is not the kind of king that the world desires or expects. He is not a king who came in glory. Instead, he was born in a manger to a poor family. He did not wage war against the earthly enemies of Israel, but against sin and unbelief. This is why so many rejected Jesus and continue to reject him. How could this weak, humble man be the King of the universe?

Yet, as we continue considering how Old Testament individuals foreshadow Christ, we will look at King David, and we shall see through the eyes of faith the kind of King Christ is, and the victory he won for us.

After God rejects King Saul for his sin and unrepentance, the prophet Samuel goes to the house of Jesse as the Lord commands him to anoint the new king. Samuel first sees David's elder brothers, whose appearances are impressive. However, God tells Samuel to not look at appearances. Finally, Jesse sees the youngest son, David, who is "ruddy" in appearance. The Lord says to anoint him, and the Spirit of God rushed upon David.

Shortly after he is anointed king (but not yet on the throne), the Philistine, pagan army gathers before Israel. However, one challenger, a giant named Goliath, comes out from among the Philistines. He is terrifying in appearance. He says, "Choose a man for yourselves...If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants," (1 Sam 17:8-9).

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Seeing Goliath's appearance, all Israel is greatly afraid.

The three oldest brothers of David follow Saul into battle, but do not gain victory. All the men of Israel see Goliath and flee from him. They are no match. Finally, David comes and goes out to battle against Goliath carrying only five stones and a sling. Goliath says, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and beasts of the field." Yet, David says "I come to you in the name of the Lord of Hosts...This day the Lord will deliver you to my hand, and I will cut off your head," (17:41-47). David kills Goliath with a stone, striking his head.

Thus, the battle of Israel is assumed onto the anointed one, who casts off their enemy in their place.

So it is also with Christ. Christ was anointed king of Israel in the Jordan River, and he is declared to be the Son of God. There, he is anointed to carry out the task of delivering his people from their sins, defeating Satan.

After his anointing, Christ likewise goes out to battle. He does not battle a man or even a great giant; he battles Satan in the wilderness, while hungry, tired, and thirsty. His weapon is not a sword or even a sling; his weapon is simply the word of God, the rod from his mouth of which Isaiah spoke. There, he also assumes the struggle of his people onto himself as Israel reduced to one, and he defeats their true enemy by defeating sin. While Satan desires to give Christ's flesh over to the birds of the air and beasts of the field on the cross, it is in His very death that Christ wins the final, decisive victory over Satan. It is there that he accomplishes what none of his elder brothers could accomplish, crushing the head of the mighty Serpent and decapitating him. It is in his death that he is shown to be king, and it is through death that he grants life to all.

For prayer: Heavenly Father, your Son delivered his people from the affliction of Satan through his incarnation, death, and resurrection. Please grant that we would always look to him as our true king and source of salvation, and that worldly wisdom and unbelief would not cause us to scorn the humiliation that he endured on our behalf. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Life Week 2025



Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>: **Life Shines at Church**

Focus: An overview of the created-redeemed-called Gospel motivation and practical suggestions for those speaking and showing the sanctity of life in and with the local congregation.

Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>: **Life Shines at School**

Focus: Identifying life issues that students especially encounter and outlining the opportunities educational communities have for celebrating sanctity of life in curriculum and on campus.

Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>: **Life Shines in Children**

Focus: Emphasizing the blessings that God gives through procreation and parenting and finding ways both to oppose the cultural adult-first outlook and affirm receiving kids—one's own and those of others—as privileges, particularly inculcating in them their worth as well as their neighbors.

Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>: **Life Shines in Money**

Focus: Exploring how a consumption economy pressures against the sanctity of life, attending to a Biblical theology of income and expenditure as service to neighbor, and inventorying how to convert cash into investment in Gospel proclamation.

Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>: **Life Shines in Dialogue**

Focus: Strategies and practices for speaking the truth in love about life issues, overcoming barriers and opening relationships through conversation and advocacy that displays both courage and compassion to warn and win over.

Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>: **Life Shines in Civic Action**

Focus: Reaching beyond voting toward educating oneself about advancing legislation, engaging elected representatives with grace, and local governance arenas that affect sanctity of life matters.

Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>: **Life Shines in Vocation**

Focus: Leveraging one's relationships, occupations, interests, and environments to demonstrate the sanctity of neighbors and declare to them how God loves every human being.

Go to [lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2025/](https://lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2025/) for more information. Zoom presentations at 8:00pm ET Sun-Fri and 10:30am ET Sat. Meeting ID: 823 0198 5273 Passcode: Grace