

December 2025

Elder: Ryan Noble
Altar Guild: Mary Ortner
Stewardship: Sonya Kruid



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
No Sunday morning Bible Study in December.	1	2	3 5:15 pm Cat. supper 5:45 pm Catechism	4 10 AM Bible Study	5	6 6 pm Worship*
7 See Every Sunday Usher Team: Dave Zierke Greeters: Mary K. & Audree O. Acolyte: Leah & Lydia Camera: Derek Allen A/V: Larry Bauder Accompanist: Tracy DeBruin	8	9 Circuit Pastors Meeting	10 5:15 pm Cat. supper 5:45 pm Catechism	11 10 AM Bible Study	12	13 9 am LWML Christmas Party 6 pm Worship
14 See Every Sunday Kids Sing in Church Usher Team: Denny Peters Greeters: Lowe Family Acolyte: Levi & Luke Camera: Derek Allen A/V: Tom Murren Accompanist: Sharon Wakeman	15	16	17 5:15 pm Cat. supper 5:45 pm Catechism	18 No Bible Study	19	20 6 pm Worship*
21 See Every Sunday Elders Mtg. 8:30 am Usher Team: JP Breugem Greeters: Tom & Jane Acolyte: Logan & Theron A/V: Jon Burt Accompanist: Sharon Wakeman	22	23	24  4 pm Candlelight Service 6:45 pm Special Music 7 pm Children's Program	25  10 AM Christmas Worship	26	27 No Worship
28 See Every Sunday No Sunday School, No Bible Class Usher Team: Jerry Wakeman Greeters: Brenda Watkins Acolyte: Eastyn & Lukas A/V: Curt Anderson Accompanist: Tracy DeBruin	29	30	31 No Catechism	EVERY SUNDAY 9 am Sunday School in December 10:30 AM WORSHIP COMMUNION ON 1ST, 3RD & 5TH SUNDAYS www.trinityhawarden.com trinityhawarden@gmail.com		



Wednesday Bible Study has **MOVED** to **Thursdays at 10 am**. We are studying the book of Revelation. There will be **NO** Thursday Bible class on Dec. 18 & 25. There will be **NO** Sunday morning Bible Class the month of December.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH BIBLE STUDY will not be meeting in December



ELDERS meet at 8:30 am on Sunday, December 21st.

LWML will meet on Saturday, December 13 at 9 am for our Christmas party. Bring Christmas goodies to share.



Sunday School kids will be singing during worship on Sunday, December 14th. There will be **NO** Sunday School on December 28.

MEALS NEEDED

Please sign up to help supply meals for the Catechism classes each Wednesday. Food or monetary donations accepted. Use Meal Train online at

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/q2v7rr...>



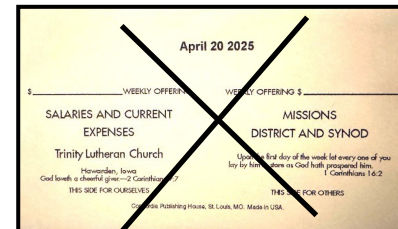
Celebrating 125 years at Trinity Lutheran Church!

If shipping goes according to schedule, we will have red star Christmas ornaments celebrating our 125th anniversary here at Trinity by Sunday December 7 ! One *free* ornament for each family will be handed out.



New Envelopes for 2026

New 2026 envelopes will be available to pick up in the narthex in the month of December.



OLD Offering Envelope

Funds were divided into Home and Missions. The money went into



NEW Offering Envelope

Everything goes into the General Fund. We will still give to District Missions, the same as in the past.

We need help!

Have you thought about **taking a turn** at volunteering to help out at church? We can always use **ushers, greeters, altar guild people, A/V (slides) people, etc.**

The new year would be a great time to start! Each job is not difficult and we can show you "how". These jobs are in rotation with others, so they are not an every Sunday commitment. Please let us know if you could help. Tell Pastor or Lycia before mid December, before the 2026 schedules are made!



WHERE DOES YOUR MONEY GO?????

The Initial Offering envelope goes to the general fund to help pay for contribution envelopes.

Regular offering envelopes go to the church general fund.

All loose plate contributions on regular Sundays also go to general fund. Easter also goes into the general fund.

NEW: This year you will notice the offering envelopes only have one option: General Fund. In past years, people found the extra option: "Mission" confusing. This "Mission" option did not go to support the Second Offering, but District Missions. The District Mission, (Camp Okoboji, and Lutheran Family Service offering) will now be taken from the General Fund.

General Fund

Salaries and current expenses are the "General Fund" expenses. They include salaries for pastor, secretary and custodian, church and parsonage maintenance and upkeep, utilities, insurance, worship supplies etc.

Special Offering Envelopes go to Missions – they include: Reformation, Advent, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Lent Services, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Pentecost, and Thanksgiving. The Children's Christmas Program contributions goes to the Sunday School Department and the Candlelight Service contributions goes to the youth. All loose plate offerings go to Missions on the above holidays.

Special Offering such as Building Fund, Lutheran Witness etc. go to the fund marked on the envelope.

You **must** use **your current year's numbered envelope if you want your contribution recorded for your statements**. If you have any questions, please call the office for clarification.

Please note: Hawarden Community Food Pantry, and offerings for the Hansen family, our overseas missionaries, and mission projects of our own LWML, are collected and dispersed separately in the **second offerings**.

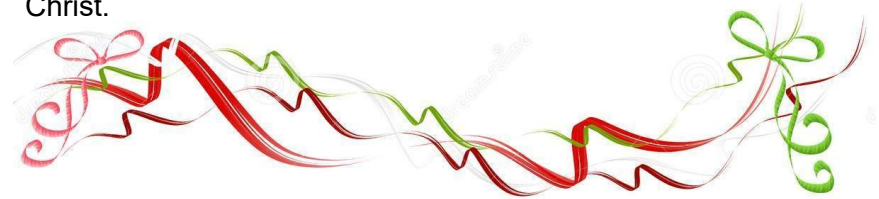


Advent Midweek Services

December 3rd, 10th, and 17th at 7 pm

"EVERY HEART PREPARE"

We decorate in preparation for Christmas. In November and December, people spend hours putting up lights in their living space and ornaments on their evergreens. Poinsettias are placed on the mantel, presents are put under the tree, and we deck the halls with boughs of holly. These Christmas decorations bring enjoyment and anticipation to the holiday. Advent is the church season of preparation for Christmas, for the coming of the Lord. This Advent season, as part of our preparation, we will reflect upon three common Christmas decorations and how they help us see Christ and prepare for His coming: evergreens, lights, and the creche. Then, on Christmas, we will focus on the wrapped presents, which point us to the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ.



CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

Tuesday December 24

4 PM Candlelight Service "Lessons & Carols"

6:45 PM Special Music

7 PM Children's Christmas Eve Program

Wednesday December 25

10 AM Christmas Day Worship

In Addition:

- **No** Sunday morning Bible Study in December.
- Sunday School will begin at 9 am each Sunday in December.
- Kids sing during worship on December 14.
- **No** Sunday School on December 28.
- **No** Catechism on December 24 or 31.
- **No** Thursday morning Bible Class on December 18 or 25, or January 1.
- **No** Saturday Worship on Dec. 27.

Trinity Is becoming a Swaddling Clothes Center!

Donations of children’s diapers and wipes are needed to help fill our shelves. The first three weekends in December, there will be a table in the narthex where you can leave packages of diapers (newborn to size 6 or pullups) and/or wipes. If you would rather someone else do the shopping for you, there will be a donation box at the diaper table or you can give Lycia, in the office, a monetary dona-tion.

Over the past year, the members of LWML have talked about how we can reach out into our community and help serve those in need. Trinity received overwhelming community-wide generosity and support through volunteers and donations following our devastating flood in 2024. With gratitude to God for faithful friends and neighbors, there was a desire to give back to our community by using the re-sources God has given, including restored facilities and grateful hearts and hands.

In October, Julie Mann spoke to the members of LWML about this program. The project took off from there. Becoming a Swaddling Clothes Center allows our congregation a way to answer our Lord’s call to love our neighbor in tangible ways by providing diapers to needy families with young children. Our purpose at the Trinity Hawarden Swaddling Clothes Center will be giving of diapers and wipes to those in need. We will also reach out with the Gospel to those who come to our church through personal witness and by inviting them to attend worship and Sunday School.

The center will help those families in need, that have young children, by making diapers and wipes available on the fourth Sunday of each month, beginning January 25, from 3:00-5:00pm.

Sammy Anderson, Kassy Boyer, Amanda Buryanek, Nancy Buryanek and Breanne Noble are serving as the steering committee for this program. You can find out more by talking to any of these individ-uals, following our Facebook page (Trinity Hawarden Swaddling Clothes Center) or visiting the swaddlingclothes.org website. As we move forward, there will be a need for volunteers to help with the sorting and repackaging of diapers. Please watch the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter for more information. Better yet, follow our Facebook page!

Swaddling Clothes is a program run by various congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, throughout several states, with a mission to share the mercy of Christ with our neighbors through the gifts of clothing, food, friendship, and the forgiving Word of God.

Poinsettias

As the Christmas season approaches, we will be taking orders for poinsettias for our Christmas decoration here at Trinity. If you would like to order a poinsettia, please fill out this form and hand it to an usher as you leave church or put it in the collection plate. ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY DECEMBER 14th. The cost is \$12.00 each and checks may be made out to Trinity Lutheran Church. You may order a poinsettia but please pay for it as soon as possible.

How many plants are you ordering? _____

Please provide the following information, which will be printed in the bulletin.

YOUR NAME _____

Please check **ONE** box below:

- ☐ Given in loving memory of...
- ☐ Given in celebration of...
- ☐ Given in honor of...



Name of person(s) to remember, celebrate or give honor to:

Thank you!



From Pastor's Desk...

It's a dead run until Christmas. Advent seeks to pump the brakes, though. Over the years, however, I've become more and more appreciative of Advent's stalling and braking as Christmas draws near.

In many our culture tries to cheat us out of "real" Christmas by starting Christmas early. As soon as Halloween is over Christmas is in full swing. Holiday music, decorations, Christmas shopping dominates and Thanksgiving becomes, in my opinion, "Christmas Number One" or "First Christmas." I can't decide which I like better. By December 25 we are all flat worn out with Christmas.

Long before "Holly Jolly Christmas" and Bing Crosby dominated the airwaves, Christians set aside the weeks of Advent following November 30 to prepare, to wait, to hope for Christ's coming- both at Christmas and at the end of time. They fasted, prayed, acknowledged and repented of their sins and reflected on how God could come to us in our flesh to save us from our sin. Such reflection also prepared their hearts in faith for Christ's final return in glory to judge the living and the dead bringing an end to sin and death. They used the 12 days of Christmas to really celebrate and feast the birth of the Savior.

I used to fight the decorating, the music, and the gift giving, but now I simply suggest disciplining yourself enough to occasionally and routinely stop, meditate, and pray in among the Christmas forces. Contemplate Christ's return: are you ready? Is there anything you need to change about yourself? What part of your life needs to fall in line with the Ten Commandments? Learn the power of stopping and withholding for your own good and the good of others. Ponder His coming for you at Bethlehem: read the Christmas story from the bible in Luke 2. Think about what this meant for Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds and Wisemen. Come to Advent Midweek services and join with us praying, singing, and preparing. Finally, celebrate Christmas well. I mean really well. Use the 12 days that follow December 25 to rejoice and be merry. Give generously to those in need, especially, to those who don't deserve it.

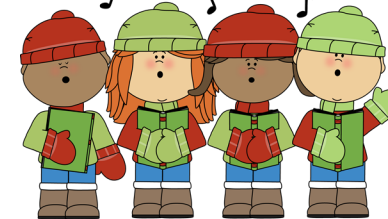
Pump the brakes in Advent. Stop. Pray. Repent. Then celebrate! Christ is born for you and your forgiveness. He is also coming soon! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus.

Happy December Birthdays!

- 1 Wendi Ruhland
- 2 Dave Huebner
- 3 Curt Anderson
- 4 Carol Coffelt
- 5 Brooke Klemme, Trudy Paul
- 6 Dan Christensen, Mary Ortner
- 7 Peggy Christensen, Brenda Watkins
- 8 Sonya Kruid
- 9 Tara Van Ballegooyen
- 11 Bode Buryanek, Tracy DeBruin, Bill Martinsen, Juliana Miller
- 12 Amanda Buryanek
- 13 Barb Halseth, Adrianna Star
- 14 Sharilyn Buryanek
- 15 Paisley Anderson
- 17 Carl Baas, Lisa Ruhland
- 18 Dave Hamilton, Jean Lemmermann, Lora Mora
- 19 Dana Curiel
- 20 Carol Aldrich, Marlin Janssen, Kolin Vander Feen
- 21 Mitch Schlumbohm
- 22 Carter Bultman, Jude Mitchell
- 23 Emily Mitchell
- 25 Diego Hurtado, Casey Van Bochove
- 27 Lycia Anderson, Lois Greder, Addilyn Van Wyhe
- 28 Henry Lowe
- 29 Lukas Burt, Steve Johnson



Happy Birthday to you!



Happy December Anniversaries!

- 1 Rick & Kim Waterman (9 yrs)
- 5 Angel & Amy Topete (31 yrs)
- 30 Casey & Amanda Van Bochove (20 yrs)



Praying for our Congregation this Month

Each week, we will pray for 5 or 6 families in our congregation (alphabetically, by last name). In the month of December, at the beginning of the new church year, these are the families that we will pray for :

- Dec. 7 Duane & Carol Aldrich
Dave & Shelly Aldrich, Cory, Madison, Brielle
Mary Aldrich
Derek & Mandie Allen, Timothy, Trinity, Dakota,
Grace, Dylan
Curt & Lycia Anderson
Brett & Samantha Anderson, Reed, Coty, Kaci
- Dec. 14 Carl & Shannon Baas, Janissa, Teagan, Micah,
Molly
Randy & Barb Ballard
Kathy Barnes
Larry & Joann Bauder
Harlan & Ruth Benda
Bill & Karlinda Benda
Mike & Linda Bockelman
- Dec. 21 Joyce Boerma
Carol Bolluyt
Jack & Kay Borchers
Rick & Joann Boyer
Boe Boyer
Jett & Amelia Boyer
Darvin & Peggy Boyles
- Dec. 28 Betty Brandsma
JP & Holly Breugem, Emma
Cathie Brown
Kurt & Deb Bultman
Brian Bultman, Jordan
Austin Bultman
Ashley Bultman, Carter, Kade

DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. Luke 2:7



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