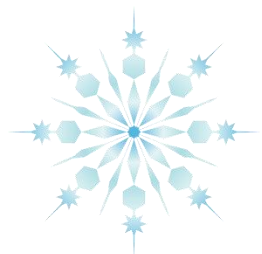




January 2026



Birthdays

1 – Matthew Sheppard
 3 – Marvel Burmester
 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
 Lynn Arends
 Randy Grefe
 Jim Moats

Greeters

Larry & Deb Behn
 Michelle Giddings
 Phil & Kristi Hauser
 Mike & Donna Spetman

Acolytes

4 – Evan Waechter
 18 – Vivian Hansen
 An Elder or Usher will fill in on the other Sundays

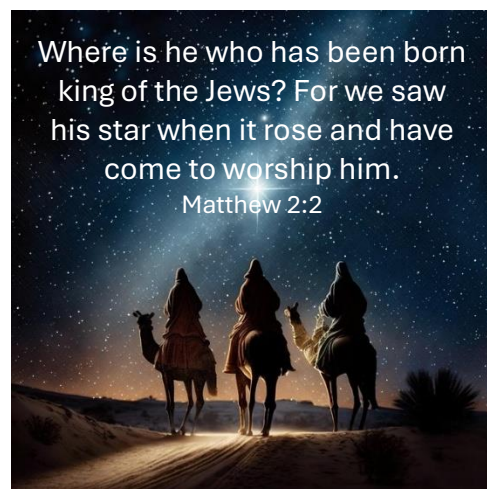
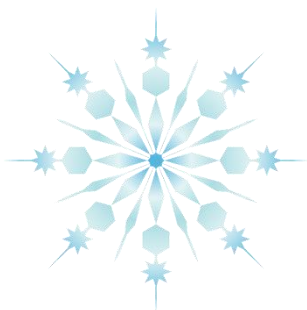
Special Meetings this Month

- Monday, January 12th at 5:30 PM
Church Council Meeting
- Sunday, January 18th (after church)
Quarterly Voters' Meeting

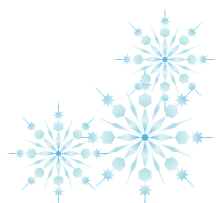
Anniversaries

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

Happy
Anniversary!



Where is he who has been born
 king of the Jews? For we saw
 his star when it rose and have
 come to worship him.
 Matthew 2:2





New: Monthly Communion Chapel Service

Pastor Bollhagen will be starting a Monthly Daytime Communion Chapel on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 1:00 PM. This is for anyone who wishes to attend!



Wednesday, January 7th
at 2:00 PM

Devotion/Bible Study:
Vicki Claypool
Hostess:
Denise Grell

All ladies are invited. Please join us!

We are blessed with
many volunteers
here at Trinity.
Thank you for your
help in 2025!



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

- *Country View Nursing Facility:
Jennie Dellinger, Melba Muhlenbruch,
Dixie Schmitt
- *Franklin General Assisted Living:
Merlin Behn
- *Rehabilitation Center of Hampton:
Mardell Jorgensen
- *Leahy Grove:
Patty Rodemeyer
- *Apple Valley in Clear Lake:
Cliff & Ruth Berghoefer
- *Chandler Place in Minnesota:
Jean Morgan
- *At Home:
Kathy Jones, Jerry Meyer, Jim Stahl

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



Annual Report Deadline

Church Boards and other groups: Please have your annual reports for 2025 to the church office by Monday, January 12th.

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

From Vicar Linneman...

The Wilderness of Judea: Temptation and Testing

I don't remember now who it was, whether a seminary professor of mine or a college professor, but I remember one of my instructors making the connection between the Israelites wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, and Jesus wandering in the wilderness for 40 days. And once I saw that, I remember having such an "Aha!" moment that I can still remember to this day what that was like. And so I pass this connection on to you, in the hope that it would illuminate your continued study of our savior Jesus Christ.

If you remember the wanderings in the wilderness in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers (and retold again by Moses in Deuteronomy), you will remember that the children of Israel after leaving Egypt wandered in the wilderness for 40 years after disobeying God's direction to go in and conquer the promised land. But remember what takes place before these wanderings? This, of course, is the central Gospel event in the Old Testament, the crossing of the Red Sea that culminates the entire exodus from Egypt of the children of Israel. The children of Israel passed through the sea on dry ground, while Pharaoh and his host were drowned at the bottom of the sea. God's people passed through the water, while God's enemies were destroyed.

Now the connection here to the life of Jesus is that before his own wilderness wanderings, he himself passed through the waters safely. Immediately before being driven out into the wilderness, he is baptized in the Jordan River by John. In both cases, God safely brings both Jesus and the individuals through the waters, and immediately they are both faced with the same temptations. Both Jesus and the Israelites are tempted with hunger, both Jesus and the Israelites are tempted to grumble against God and put him to the test. Both Jesus and

the Israelites are tempted to fall down and worship false gods. But only Jesus successfully resists each and every temptation. When the hunger tempted the Israelites, they grumbled against God saying, “Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger” (Ex 16:3). Meanwhile, Jesus says “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God’ ” (Matt 4:4). When the Israelites were tempted to test God, they said, “Give us water to drink,” and Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” (Ex 17:2). Meanwhile, Jesus says “It is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test’ ” (Matt 4:7). And finally, when the Israelites were tempted to fall down and worship other gods, they almost immediately gave in and worshiped the golden calf (Ex 32). Meanwhile, Jesus says “For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve’ ” (Matt 4:10).

Jesus is the only Israelite to stand firm in the Word of God where every other Israelite failed. He shows that he indeed keeps the covenant made on Sinai, and he fulfills on behalf of Israel the Law and it’s requirements. And now he has set free all who are now grafted into God’s chosen people, you who have yourselves passed safely through the waters of baptism.

A special recognition goes out to our Board of Evangelism for all the hard work they did on the lighted Christmas parade float! It is beautiful! Thank you board members!



Getting (Re)Started with Prayer



Getting (Re)Started with Prayer

A Christian Foundations Booklet

This new Project Connect booklet considers how God answers prayer, why praying is important, and the words of our prayers. In prayer, we share everything with God, who is always ready to listen. Pick one up from our Project Connect carousel.

 PROJECT CONNECT

You will notice our new Christmas paraments this season! Thank you to the family of Mary Jane Rodemeyer for this memorial.

