

TRINITY TIDINGS

A Congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

January 2025

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*Think of it as pure joy, my siblings,
whenever you face struggles of any kind (whenever you wrestle with anything).
Know that the testing of your faith produces endurance and endurance
has its complete effect so that you may be fully mature and lacking in nothing.*
James 1:2-4

Dear Members and Friends of the Trinity Family,

In January, we wrestle...not in the sense of siblings rolling around on the floor together, half fighting and half laughing. And not completely in the sense of Jacob's wrestling with God all night and then receiving a blessing in the morning. To wonder and be curious, to doubt and to question is a form of wrestling. We all wrestle with complex, inconsistent, and often contradictory feelings. We struggle with unbelief and unknowing, especially when the world seems unkind and unjust, when God's people and God's creatures suffer so much sorrow.

Wrestling is an important part of faith. In our progressive, inclusive Christian community wrestling is encouraged and affirmed. At Trinity, there is no judgment for doubt. In fact, doubt and questions and uncertainty are honored and valued. We love and trust one another enough to express hard things, to have differing opinions knowing that our words are met with openness, understanding, and grace. We do not have to agree on everything in order to love and honor and respect each other. My hope and prayer is that the strength of our life together will hold us close, especially when we disagree, wrestle, and experience the world in very different ways. My hope and prayer for us during the Epiphany season is this:

May this family of faith be a safe harbor where we can bring our anger, our hard questions, our doubts, our contradictions, and our silence.

May this family of faith forever be a sanctuary where we know that faith and doubt are not opposites.

May this family of faith be made up of loving, critical thinkers who embrace shades of gray when it might be easier to see things in black and white.

May this family of faith wrestle openly together with all the respect, kindness, and grace we can muster.

May this family of faith walk together in the Way of Love with honesty and openness.

Peace, love, and joy,



Pastor Susan Crowell

COUNCIL NOTES

At the December meeting, the Congregation Council...

- welcomed Carl Brune, Angie Hager, Richard Moose, Patrick Morgan, Margaret Roth, and Lexie Thomas-Harewood as newly elected members of Congregation Council;
- appointed Jaime Fivecoat to a two-year term on council to fill the position left vacant by Lindsay Hawkins;
- noted that expenses for November were \$11,759 less than projected;
- received a report from the Executive Committee noting that remediation efforts for the damage in the basement of the Sanctuary could cost up to \$50,000; an offer on the 429 Property has been made and a (non-binding) letter of intent has been signed; and the January council meeting will include an orientation for all members;
- approved a motion from the Executive Committee to fund the replacement of the boiler in the Gym at a cost of approximately \$92,000 making use of funds in the Major Replacement and Repairs Designated Account (after this expense this Designated Account will contain approximately \$41,000);
- designated housing allowances for both Pastor Parham and Pastor Crowell;
- authorized the Executive Committee and staff to appoint 2025 committees;
- elected Lani Wise to serve as Vice-President, Donna Potts to serve as Secretary, and Mike Boliek to serve as the Treasurer;
- learned that the next council meeting will take place on Sunday, January 12 at 1:30 pm;
- agreed that all council members and officers of the congregation will be installed during worship on Sunday, January 5;
- and expressed gratitude to outgoing council members for their faithful service and leadership to include Greg Hamluk, Calvin Harmon, John Otten, Jimmy Reynolds, and Jenna Mast.

GIVING TO TRINITY



Trinity is grateful for all the prayers, contributions, and displays of support from members, friends, and guests. Financial contributions can be placed in the offering plates during worship, mailed to the church, or given electronically by going to trinitylutheran.ws, by scanning the QR code, or texting TLGGIVE to 73256.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Thanks to all of you who invested so much time, skill, good humor, and love into our music ministry in December. You ensured that our musical proclamation was beautiful, pertinent, honest, and well-crafted. As we begin rehearsing the new music for 2025, January is the perfect time to join one of our choirs. If interested or have questions, please contact Pastor Parham at the phone number and email address below.



Adult Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:15 pm in the Choir Room on the second floor of the Pence Building. In January the choir will rehearse January 8, 15, 22, and 29. There will be no rehearsal on Wednesday, January 1.

Each Sunday, the choir gathers at 9:30 am in the Choir Room for a brief rehearsal and warm-up. For 10:00 am worship, the choir assembles in the Sanctuary balcony or around the piano in the Gym to support and strengthen congregational singing and to offer special choral music in a wide variety of styles that proclaims, enriches, and interprets the scripture for the day.

Martin Luther called music the “Servant of the Gospel,” so the goal is to offer music that draws our minds, bodies, emotions, and imaginations to experience more deeply God’s rich and often challenging word. Everyone with a love of singing is invited to join this community of musical mission partners. There are no auditions, and even though we are called the “Adult” Choir, we warmly welcome youth to sing with us. If interested, please e-mail Pastor Parham at the address below.

Handbell Choir’s one firm rehearsal in January is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, in the Sanctuary from 6:00 to 6:50 pm. The choir will ring in worship the following Sunday, January 12. After January 12, anyone who wants to join us for the winter/spring season is welcome. The choir will begin a new set of pieces. Rehearsal and ringing plan for the remainder of January/February will be decided upon with the members of the choir. Ringing handbells is a unique and especially satisfying kind of precisely coordinated human community. The group is in effect, a single percussion instrument with many hands, hearts, and minds. If interested in this unique kind of musical community, please contact Pastor Parham at jcparham@trinitylutheran.ws.

Instrumentalists. Your gifts greatly enrich Trinity’s worship life. If new to the community and feel drawn to share instrumental gifts in worship, please contact Pastor Parham at jcparham@trinitylutheran.ws or 864-242-5702.

JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 5
Worship at 10:00 am in the Gym
Installation of Council Members and Officers of the Congregation
Refreshments and fellowship to follow in the back corner of the Gym

Thursday, January 9
Queer-led worship in the Sanctuary at 6:30 pm
Refreshments served following the service

Sunday, January 12
Worship at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary
Refreshments and fellowship to follow on the front lawn

Sunday, January 19
Worship at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary
Refreshments and fellowship to follow on the front lawn

Sunday, January 26
Worship at 10:00 am in the Gym
Refreshments and fellowship to follow in the back corner of the Gym

EPIPHANY PRAYER INTENTIONS

In worship on Sunday, January 5 as Trinity observes the Second Sunday of Christmas and the Day of Epiphany, all worshippers will have an opportunity to select an Epiphany Prayer Intention. Paper stars containing various prayer intentions will be available for worshippers to select an intention that resonates with them or to select an intention at random to see how God might work in their lives through this intention. Paper stars will be available for the first few weeks of January in the worship space on Sundays and in the Church Office during the week. Please choose to participate in Trinity's life together by selecting a prayer intention.



PRAYING FOR POSSIBILITIES

Praying for Possibilities is a program at Trinity dedicated to praying for the ministries of the congregation. Members and friends of the congregation are invited to sign up for a specific week during the year when they are encouraged to pray through the written prayers one time during the course of the assigned week. This ministry requires a small commitment of time with the possibility of tremendous blessing. To ask questions about the ministry or to sign up to participate, please reach out to Terry Morgan at tfmorgan101@gmail.com or 864-230-6252.

January Prayer Volunteers

January 5 - 11
Donna Potts

January 12 - 18
Jeff Rehm

January 19 - 25
David Potts

January 26 - February 1
Lani Ludian and Karen Nichols

CONGREGATIONAL BAPTISM EVENT

Everyone is invited to gather for a

Congregational Baptismal Celebration

Sunday, January 12, 2025
11:30 am
in the Multipurpose Room

Lunch will be provided
as well as activities to remember and celebrate
God's naming and claiming us as God's beloved, precious, baptized children.

Contact Angie McCormack at 864-630-4026 or ahmccormack@trinitylutheran.ws for more information or to sign up for this event.



CELEBRATING FAITH FORMATION SUNDAY

With Children's Sunday Faith Formation resuming and a new series for the Adult Faith Formation class beginning on Sunday, January 26, it will be a Sunday not to be missed! In celebration of the many ways Christ forms this community in the faith for service to the world, a hot lunch will be served following worship. Mark your calendars for a day of learning, worship, and fellowship!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The class continues to meet at 9:00 am in Rooms 12 & 13, January 5, 12, and 19 on various topics. A new series will begin Sunday, January 26. Taught by Penny Bostain, *Together by Grace: Introducing the Lutherans* will explore foundations of Lutheranism, including theology and history, in ways that are informative and interactive. Participants may choose to purchase the book by searching the title, *Together by Grace: Introducing the Lutherans* on Amazon, but this is not required for full participation. A study guide will be provided.

Session Topics:

Week 1, January 26: *The Faith we Confess*

Week 2, February 2: *From the 16th Century to Today*

Week 3, February 9: *Worship and the Arts*

Week 4, February 16: *Faith Active in Love*

Week 5, February 23: *Being Lutheran Together in a Wider World*

SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION CLASSES FOR CHILDREN BEGIN IN JANUARY

The Education Committee, in collaboration with the pastoral and program staff, is excited to announce that beginning January 26 three classes will gather at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings in the Education Building. Classes will be available for pre-schoolers (who will be accompanied by a parent or caring adult), for children in K5 through Grade 2, and for children in Grade 3 through Grade 5. Teachers, volunteers, and participants are needed. Please reach out to Jeff Rehm at jarehm41@gmail.com with questions or to sign up to be a part of this program to encourage, teach, and lift up Trinity's youngest members.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Accompanied by Child Protection trained adults, children are invited to leave worship after the children's sermon to hear the scripture reading in ways more appropriate to them. Using the lectionary stories heard in worship each Sunday, the children hear the scripture read from an age appropriate text and enjoy an activity related to the theme of the day. They return to worship in time to share the peace and participate in the family meal of Holy Communion. Adults interested in volunteering for this ministry should contact Patrick Preacher at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws.

PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUP

The Preschool Playgroup will meet on Sunday, January 5 in the middle Pence Classroom (Room 204) following worship. A simple, kid-friendly lunch will be provided followed by an Epiphany themed activity and story. Children (birth through age 4) are invited to join us along with their parent(s) and siblings. This group has become a meaningful way for not only God's youngest children to bond, but also for parents of little ones to be in community together.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN

Trinity Children and youth will join together for lunch on Sunday, January 26. Following lunch, the groups will divide for "Exploring the Faith: Miracles of Jesus." Pastor Parham will lead the youth and Angie McCormack will be with the children. The event will end at 1:00 pm For more information or questions, contact Angie McCormack at ahmccormack@trinitylutheran.ws or 864-630-4026.

YOUNG ADULTS AT TRINITY

All young adults (20's and 30's ish!) are invited to gather in the Multipurpose Room for an Epiphany Celebration on Monday, January 6 at 6:30 pm. Dinner will be provided. Participants are asked to bring a small wrapped hand-made gift or a purchased gift (under \$10) for the gift exchange. Reach out to Lara Wannemacher at larawannemacher@gmail.com or 864-630-5325 if you would like to attend.

JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 5</p> <p>9:00 FAITH FORMATION 10:00 WORSHIP IN THE GYM AND LIVE-STREAM REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW</p> <p>11:30 PRESCHOOL PLAY GROUP</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30 YOUNG ADULTS GROUP</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 12</p> <p>9:00 FAITH FORMATION 9:30 SECOND SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE 10:00 WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY AND LIVE-STREAM REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW</p> <p>11:30 BAPTISMAL EVENT</p> <p>1:30 CONGREGATION COUNCIL</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY 19</p> <p>9:00 FAITH FORMATION 10:00 WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY AND LIVE-STREAM REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW</p> <p>11:30 HISTORY READING GROUP</p> <p>11:30 OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY 26</p> <p>9:00 FAITH FORMATION FOR ADULTS 9:00 FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN 10:00 WORSHIP IN THE GYM AND LIVE-STREAM REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW</p> <p>11:30 YOUTH AND CHILDRENS EVENT</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

2

3

4

8

9

10

11

6:30 AM MEN'S REFLECTION AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP

6:00 HANDBELL CHOIR
7:00 ADULT CHOIR

6:30 QUEER-LED WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

15

16

17

18

11:30 WELCOME TABLE

7:00 ADULT CHOIR

6:30 LOVE WINS GROUP

22

23

24

25

7:00 ADULT CHOIR

29

30

31

SECOND SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE

Thanks to all who continue to contribute to the Food Pantry. In addition to regular items, the pantry is in special need of canned meats, toilet paper, and canned vegetables. All are encouraged to bring donations to worship. A volunteer will be stationed at the Red Canopy Door from 9:30 to 10:00 am on the second Sunday of each month to assist in unloading donations. Upcoming date is



January 12. The following items are most needed: dried beans (16 oz), peanut butter (16 oz), cereal, canned fruit, rice (2 lb bag), pasta sauce, canned meat, canned vegetables, and toilet paper. Our neighbors especially love canned fruit! Your support and love is greatly appreciated. If interested in volunteering to collect items during the Sunday Food Drives, please contact Patrick Preacher at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH



Trinity's Out to Lunch Bunch is open to all adults who would like to enjoy fellowship and a meal together after worship. The group will gather on Sunday, January 19 at Moe's BBQ, 109 W Stone Ave, Greenville. Please reach out to Angie McCormack at 864-630-4026 to reserve your space at lunch.

REBUILD UPSTATE

Trinity is delighted to be partnering with Rebuild Upstate, a non-profit organization in Greenville that provides home repairs to those in need. Ten volunteers (eighteen or older, or accompanied by an adult) are needed on Saturday, February 22 for the entire day to complete either a ramp project or a home repair project. No specific skills are required, just a willingness to serve. All tools and materials will be provided. If interested in participating, please register at rebuildupstate.org or contact Pat O'Neill at oneillpattonw@hotmail.com or 706-254-1122.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

In an effort to stay connected, please consider extending birthday greetings to the following members. If you would like the church to know your birthdate please contact the Church Office to submit this information through Realm.

Gregg Alley - January 12
Craig Anderson - January 8
Danny Baker - January 19
John Beckford - January 21
Maggie Boliek - January 10
Roger Brown - January 17
Rowan Brown - January 2
Joe Campbell - January 9
Mary Cannon Spencer - January 2
Pastor Susan Crowell - January 19
Richard Delap - January 10
Diane Drummond - January 19
Della Finnern - January 29
Karen Haagensen - January 1
Anne Harmon - January 27

Leila James Kolb - January 23
Lani Ludian - January 27
Kylee Mast - January 17
Adaline McCormack - January 7
Ben McCormack - January 7
Ava McNeice - January 9
Norris Morgan - January 13
Missy Roberts - January 5
Jeff Roth - January 25
Peyton Roth - January 24
Rosa Waldrep - January 10
Delany Wannemacher - January 17
Carl Witherspoon - January 11



NURSERY FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP



A nursery hosted by a member of the Trinity staff, Beth Oswald, as well as a small group of rotating adult volunteers who have been trained in Trinity's Child Protection Policy is available each Sunday morning beginning at 9:45 am to care for infants and toddlers who would prefer enjoying play time instead of attending 10:00 worship. The nursery is located on the first floor of the Pence Building. Please reach out to a greeter or usher if you need assistance.

MEN'S REFLECTION AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Men's Fellowship

A Reflection and Fellowship Group for men meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 6:30 am to 7:30 am in the Sitting Room. Calvin Harmon leads and facilitates this group with the intent of providing a brave, safe space for mutual sharing and encouragement. The morning includes a light breakfast as well as time for devotions and prayer. Upcoming dates include January 8 and February 12.

NEW TIME FOR HISTORY READING GROUP

The TLC History Reading Group will now meet at 11:30 am on the third Sunday of each month. The next meeting is on Sunday, January 19 in Rooms 12 and 13 at 11:30 am after worship. The group will discuss *Patriots: The Men Who Started the American Revolution* by A. J. Langgath.

Newcomers are always welcome. Contact Bob Schirmer at rwschirmer@gmail.com or Don Todd at dktodd47@gmail.com for more information. Participation via Zoom will be available.

THE WELCOME TABLE

The Welcome Table is so grateful to be partnering with Feed & Seed Company of Greenville and Project Host to continue serving and connecting with our neighbors. On Wednesday, January 15, the Welcome Table lunch will be served at 11:30 am in the Multipurpose Room. All are always welcome to attend! Future dates are February 19 and March 19. Please contact Patrick Preacher at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws with any questions or if you would like to volunteer.



FESTIVAL OF QUEER BOOKS

Trinity will host Greenville's first ever Festival of Queer Books on Saturday, February 22 from 10:00 am to noon in the Activities Building. With public schools and libraries limiting access to books representing queer families, this is an important step in providing queer youth, children, and families access to books about characters and themes they can relate to. In collaboration with other LGBTQIA+ affirming organizations, the day will have something for everyone - a bounce house, a silent disco, read-alouds, and of course FREE BOOKS! Each family will leave with a selection of books about LGBTQIA+ and/or other marginalized peoples. The focus of the day is on children's picture books in an effort to make literacy accessible for all ages. Please contact Patrick Preacher at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws if you would like to be part of this exciting event.

QUEER - LED WORSHIP



On Thursday, January 9 worship will begin at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. New queer leaders are always welcome. Please email Patrick Preacher at pdp preacher@trinitylutheran.ws if interested. This service will be live-streamed. Refreshments and fellowship to follow. Please note this is a week later than usual.

LOVE WINS FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Love Wins is a group that meets monthly to discuss a book/podcast and to enjoy some social time together. The group will meet Thursday, January 16 at 6:30 pm at The Commons at Unity Park, 320 S Hudson Street, Greenville. The group will enjoy dinner and discuss the book *Cranky, Beautiful Faith* by Nadia Bolz-Weber. Contact Angie McCormack at 864-630-4026 or ahmccormack@trinitylutheran.ws for more information or to sign up for this event.



GREENVILLE ORGANIZED FOR ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP

All GOAL network members are encouraged to gather on Monday, February 10 at 6:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room to learn more about the issues GOAL will be focusing on in 2025 and to select names of people to invite to the Nehemiah Action that will take place on Thursday, April 10 at 6:30 pm. Location for the Nehemiah Action will be announced soon. Questions may be directed to Cathy O'Neill at cathycate51@gmail.com.

WITHIN THE TRINITY FAMILY . . .

Births

A son, Otto Wink, to Shane and Lauren Smithman on December 6
A daughter, Lucie Louise, to Cassie Castle and Aaron Beale on December 12
A son, Elliot Nolan Somerville, to Chris and Leah Somerville on December 22

Baptism

Owen Philip Campanella, son of Mike and Meredith Campanella on December 22

Hospital Patients

Cassie Castle - Discharged
Lauren Smithman - Discharged
Leah Somerville - Discharged
Connie Stieghan - Discharged

ATTENDANCE FOR DECEMBER

Sundays	12/1	12/8	12/15	12/22
Online devices	410	540	530	454
In Person	<u>145</u>	<u>166</u>	<u>178</u>	<u>161</u>
	555	706	708	615

Queer-Led Worship on December 5, 30 in person, 365 online devices

Blue Christmas on December 19, 20 in person

Christmas Eve 3:00 pm 158 in person, 628 online devices
5:30 pm 162 in person, 413 online devices

OFFERING SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER

DOES NOT INCLUDE OFFERING FROM DECEMBER 29

	<u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Needed for Budget	\$ 93,834	\$ 1,126,005
Given to Budget	<u>\$ 82,391</u>	<u>\$ 1,026,287</u>
Difference	\$ (11,443)	\$ (99,718)
Given to World Hunger	\$ 150	\$ 12,788

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Greenville, SC 29601-2090

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID PERMIT #378
GREENVILLE, SC

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