

# THE TRINITY HERALD

notes and news from

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*Our mission at Trinity Lutheran Church is to teach the Word of God, to train believers for lives of Christian service, and to tell the good news of Jesus Christ to the Northwoods community and to the world.*



## Another New Year, Already?

I can't believe we're standing at the threshold of another New Year! But here we are. We can't force time to stop grinding forward, so. . .how will we Christians approach this New Year?

Probably in quite a few different ways—ways that reflect our interests, our careers, and our stage in life. Some of us, including this writer, are going to buckle down on an exercise regimen that may help us regain upper-body strength, or help us cope with the chronic aches and pains of aging.

Others will invest extra time into a hobby—cross-country skiing, **ice fishing**, hunting, boating, or running, in an effort to take our skills to the next level.

Others will focus their efforts into strengthening their marriage, or parent-child relationships.

And still others will seek to sharpen professional skills—whether it be in deciphering the secrets of the Hebrew found in the book of Job, or plumbing the mysteries of nanoparticles in an effort to cure cancer.

Your wise use of time may differ from mine in many ways. And yet, I pray, it will be exactly the same in one key respect! How so? Consider the words of the Apostle Paul who also observed the rapid passing of time. By inspiration, he wrote, *"It is already the hour for you to wake up from sleep, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup>The night is almost over, and the day is drawing near. So let us put away the deeds of darkness and put on the weapons of light."* (Romans 13:11-12, EHV)

Notice how Paul compares our life to the passing of a night? If we're blessed with a peaceful night's rest, we don't notice the passing of the hours or the minutes. All we notice is that annoying alarm clock rattling its way across the dresser at 6:10 AM. The night itself flies by.

So also our life flies by. And that means, *"our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed."* In other words, we're getting closer. . .closer to the goal our Lord intended for each of us when he sent his Son Jesus into this world as the Savior. We're getting closer. . .closer to an end to chronic pain, depression, loneliness, sadness, worry, tears and fears. We're getting closer. . .to that place of glory where our Savior will be our light throughout eternity.

With every passing moment, we're getting closer to our death. Are we ready? Only the Lord knows the moment when he will come to take us home. (Psalm 31:15, 39:4, Matt. 24:44) And only by faith in Jesus will you and I be ready to take hold of our Savior's hand and cross over from this life into eternity. (John 5:24, Mark 16:16,)

So it's no wonder that the Apostle Paul urges us all to *"Make the most of your time. . .be filled with the Spirit <sup>19</sup>by speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (singing and making music with your hearts to the Lord), <sup>20</sup>by always giving thanks for everything to God the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (Eph. 5:16,18-20 EHV)

Privileged to serve,  
Rev. Glenn Schwanke

## PRAYERS

Please keep the following members and friends of Trinity in your prayers and in your words of encouragement to them:

Helen Anderson  
Carolyn Johnson  
Joyce Kivi  
Nancy Kreamsreiter  
Jan Krueger  
Sheila Lemke  
Dan Merten  
Ron Neitzel  
Milly Reinemann  
Harvey & Mary Sadler

If you would like to be included on this prayer list in future newsletters please contact the church office.



## WORSHIP AT TRINITY

Sundays at 9:00 am  
Mondays at 6:30 pm



Watch live or recorded services on our YouTube channel or Online at [www.trinityminocqua.org](http://www.trinityminocqua.org).

## TRINITY on SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook  
Instagram  
YouTube



## STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, you once sat over against the treasury to observe how your people gave. You have caused your presence there in the Temple to be recorded that we might know that you are still concerned. Grant to us the willingness and love that the poor widow manifested who gave all that she had; and grant to us a proper concern like yours, that your children give as you have prospered them, that your coffers may be filled with the means to spread the gospel in the world, to maintain the ordinances of your house among us, and to provide the means whereby the sufferings of many may be alleviated. In your name we ask this. Amen.

## WORSHIP NOTES

### January worship is on the way:

January 5/6 = Sermon Text: Luke 1:68-79 Theme: "A Clear, Praise-Filled View of God's Grace"

### Mid-January will usher in the Epiphany season. We'll examine "Epiphany Moments" that reveal the purpose of Jesus' ministry:

- January 12/13 = Sermon Text: Titus 3:4-7 Theme: "Who Am I Really? The Search for Identity"
- January 19/20 = Sermon Text: John 2:1-11 Theme: "It Was A Minor Miracle"
- January 26/27 = Sermon Text: Isaiah 61:1-3. Theme: Trumpet The Jubilee!

**Worship Online:** Sunday worship is recorded and posted online at our church website. You can also find the worship folder and a printed copy of the sermon there. Printed copies of each week's sermon can also be found in the Fellowship Hall. Find us on *YouTube*® by searching the handle *@trinityminocqua*. Please subscribe and share! **We're streaming our Sunday services live!**

## MINISTRY UPDATES

- **High School Youth Group** meets Wednesday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:15-8:00 PM. The three D's will be offered, as usual: dinner, devotion and diversion (activities) 
- **Wild Game Feed is coming!** One of Trinity's most popular events of the year during the coldest time of the year! Mark your calendars for Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>!
- **Be sure to follow Trinity on Facebook.** We're sharing content several days each week. The Wednesday blog post can be accessed in three ways (church website, Facebook, email from church office). You can follow our "Where's Marty?" campaign on Facebook and on Instagram at... *trinitylutheranminocqua*.
- **Free-will offering for Anchor Church, Marquette, MI.** The last two weekends of January (Jan. 19 & 26), we will gather a free-will offering for our new WELS mission church in Marquette, MI. On Sept. 15, 75 people (including 20 visitors) attended the grand opening under the theme "Hope in Christ, Firm and Secure." Approved as a mission site in 2023, Anchor Church has a 24/7 ministry space in downtown Marquette where it hosts community service events, Bible studies, youth ministry, and now weekly worship.

**Pastor Joe Lindloff** says that the community has been welcoming to the concept of a new church: "We are right where we need to be, downtown in the heart of Marquette, serving it spiritually and physically."

**A key component of Anchor's ministry** is their Campus Ministry Outreach at Northern Michigan University. Every Sunday, the Lindloffs host brunch in their home for a dozen or more college students. This has become quite a popular gathering and expensive as well! Any offerings Trinity can share will help ensure that this and other ministry activities among the college students are well funded.



## UPCOMING CHANGES AT TRINITY SCHOOL

***Below is a note to inform you of upcoming changes at Trinity Lutheran School. This was initially shared with our church/school family the week of December 8<sup>th</sup>.***

Dear Friends,

I want to notify you of a change in staffing for the upcoming school year, 2025-2026. Mr. Habben has decided that he will no longer continue in his training for the role of principal. Trinity leadership supports his decision.

Trinity needs a principal; after considerable discussion we've reached the conclusion that the best approach for Trinity and for the Habbens, will be for them to seek calls to another school. Trinity leadership is planning to call to fill the positions that will be vacated upon the Habbens' acceptance of new teaching positions elsewhere. More to follow in the coming months, please know that there will be no immediate changes in staffing for the current school year with these pending changes.

Trinity is blessed with faithful teachers and leaders! This will not change during the current school year nor in the years to come. Going forward, we trust that the Lord of the Church will provide for Mr. & Mrs. Habben and for Trinity Lutheran School!

***"Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart... For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."*** (2 Corinthians 4:1,5,7 NIV)

Pastor Stephen Luchterhand  
Lead Pastor and Interim Principal

## Thank You

Thanks to all who donated to Kaley's college fund. We have been surrounded by great support and compassion from the church and surrounding community. We will continue to get through these times with help from above.

Ron Neitzel & Kaley

## Care Connection Ministry



Trinity's Care Connection Ministry assists our members and families facing illness or other hardships, connect to services within our church and community, such as:

- assessment visits with members & families
- training volunteers
- respite for caregivers
- rides to appointments, church or other needs
- grocery shopping, preparing & delivering meals
- supportive phone calls

If you would like to learn how Trinity's CCM might be able to assist you, please contact Pastor Luchterhand. This ministry will respect your privacy and will not seek compensation for services. If you are interested in helping with this ministry of please contact the CCM's volunteer coordinator Carne Andrews, 715-225-5567.

## TRINITY SCHOOL NEWS

January brings new activities for our students. This year, we don't have enough students to have a basketball team, but we are offering those interested in the sport a "skills and drills" clinic for three weeks. Students will be able to hone their skills or try basketball for the first time.

January also brings a Geography Bee to our upper grades students, and the whole school will be participating in a Social Studies Fair at the end of the month. The fair will be part of an Open House at Trinity School. We invite you all to stop by and see the students fair projects and visit the school.

Please continue to keep Trinity Lutheran School in your prayers. This is **YOUR SCHOOL**. Please feel free to participate in any of the activities at Trinity.

### Upcoming Dates

#### **Friday, January 10**

Trinity Seedlings 8:30-9:30 am

#### **Tuesday, January 14**

Geography Bee (grades 6-8)

#### **Friday, January 17**

Kindergarten Round Up

8:15-10:00 am

End of 2nd Quarter

#### **Friday, January 31**

Open House & Social Studies Fair

3:30-6:00 pm

#### **Wednesdays, January 8, 15, 22, 29**

Midweek Chapel 8:15 am

**Midweek Chapel:** During the school year, the children will participate in a midweek chapel held on Wednesdays at 8:15 am. At any time, you are welcome to join the students for this brief service. This year, the children are giving their missions to WELS Military Services Committee.





# WILD GAME FEED

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2025

### Trinity will be hosting its 9th Wild Game Feed.

This is a chance for the hunters and gatherers of the congregation to share the bounty of their harvest and join for an evening of fellowship.

5:00 pm Appetizers and Fellowship 🍷 5:45 pm Dinner and Trivia

6:30 pm Presentation by Jonas Moermond 🐾 7:00 pm Conclusion of Event

All members invited to attend whether you are a hunter, gatherer or neither.

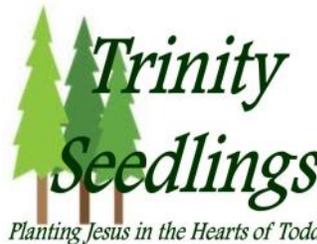
Sign up on the sheet in the fellowship hall.

Indicate what you'll be bringing & how many will attend. Bring a photo, new or old, to share!



**Upcoming  
Congregational Meeting**  
Sunday, January 26  
10:30 am

Hear reports and plans from Trinity  
Church and School



Friday, January 10  
8:30-9:30 am in the  
school library

For children ages 1-3  
Contact Sue Ziebart for details.



**TUESDAY,  
January 28**  
1:00-3:00 pm  
Everyone is invited  
to attend!



**Book Club**  
Tuesday, January 21  
12:00-1:00 pm  
Questions? Contact Marcia  
Frederick.



We still need snow  
shovelers for the  
church and school  
sidewalks  
this winter!  
Sign up today!



Wednesdays  
9:30 am-2:00 pm  
All are welcome  
to join us!