

THE TRINITY HERALD

notes and news from

Trinity Lutheran Church and School

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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.



When Life is Heavy, Where is Your Soul?

In his second letter to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul sounds like a man at the end of his rope. He speaks of being "*hard pressed on every side*," "*perplexed*," and "*struck down*" (2 Corinthians 4:8-9). If we are honest, do many of us feel exactly the same way today? Whether it is the weight of health concerns, the ache of a fractured relationship, the simple exhaustion of a busy life, or the onslaught of our daily news feed, it is easy to feel like we are sinking under the weight of everyday life.

However, Paul uses a specific phrase in 2 Corinthians that changes everything: "***In Christ***." To Paul, "*In Christ*" isn't just a religious slogan; it's a location. He writes that God "*always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession*" (2 Corinthians 2:14 NIV).

Think of it this way: Imagine a bitter winter blizzard. If you are standing outside in the middle of it, you are at the mercy of the elements. But if you are **in** your sturdy house, cozied up in front of your wood stove, the storm may still rage against the windows, but your reality is one of warmth and safety. Your "location" determines your experience.

When we are "*In Christ*," our weaknesses do not disappear, but they are suddenly held by His strength. Paul famously pleaded with God to remove a "*thorn in his flesh*," but the answer he received was: "*My grace is sufficient for you, because my power is made perfect in weakness*" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Being "In Christ" means:

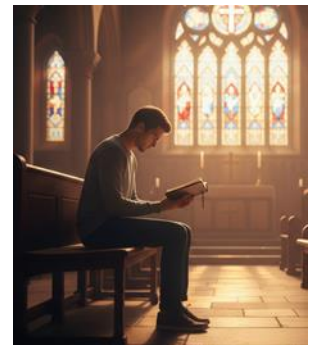
- When you feel **bankrupt**, you are hidden in His riches. (Ephesians 3:8, 2 Corinthians 8:9)
- When you feel **guilty**, you are wrapped in His righteousness. (Isaiah 61:10, 2 Corinthians 5:21)
- When you feel **alone**, you are joined to the One who will never leave you. (Deuteronomy 31:8, Hebrews 13:5)

This month, as you look at your "to-do" list or face your "to-endure" trials, remember your address. You aren't just living in Woodruff, Minocqua, Arbor Vitae, Mercer, Boulder Junction, Manitowish Waters, or Hazelhurst, you are living **in Christ**. The world may press in, but it cannot crush the one who is held by the Savior. Because we are in Christ, His victory is our victory, and His peace is our home.

Privileged to Serve,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rev. Glenn L. Schwanke".

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
Linda Driscoll
Carolyn Johnson
Sheila Lemke
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.

TRINITY on SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook
Instagram
YouTube



STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Heavenly Father, it is indeed an honor to be allowed to serve you. As your servants we are quite aware of our shortcomings and inabilities, and we humbly pray that you would fill us with a greater measure of your Spirit. In all our endeavors may we seek only the honor of your holy name, and the welfare of those who need the sharing of our love. Let no task be considered too small for our devotion, and grant that our courage may not falter when we face those larger opportunities which can be laid hold of only by fervent prayer. Remind us that with you nothing is impossible, and that without you nothing is worthwhile. Let our good deeds be symbols of gratitude for what you have done for us, and grant that when our work is finished we may all stand in your presence to enjoy you in your glory. In the Savior's name we ask this. Amen.

WORSHIP NOTES

Epiphany season worship continues under the theme: "Identity Revealed."

- February 1/2 = Text: Psalm 1 Sermon Theme: "Rest for the Stressed"
- February 8/9 = Northland Lutheran Sunday – We'll host the Northland choir and a guest preacher.
- February 15/16 = Transfiguration Sunday = Text: Matthew 17:1-9 Sermon Theme: "Lord, It Is Good To Be Here!"
- February 22/23 = 1st Sunday in Lent commences a series entitled "Exactly What I Need." Text: Genesis 3:1-15 Sermon Theme: "Hide and Seek with God"

Northwinds (the traveling choir of Northland Lutheran High School in Kronenwetter) will be singing with us in worship on February 8. Our congregation supports Northland for the Christian education of youth in our area: TOGETHER training leaders by following Christ.

Ash Wednesday worship on February 18th. Six weeks of midweek Lenten worship will center on prophecies from the Old Testament prophet Zechariah. Overall theme: "It Is Finished." 4 pm worship every Wednesday (Ash Wednesday will have an extra 6:30 pm service). Ash Wednesday's text & theme: Zechariah 13:7-9 "Scattered Sheep"



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!** Special services will also be streamed live and then archived for viewing.



BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

- **Wednesday Lunch Break Bible Study** (12:15 pm) continues through February 11th, then resumes in April (after Lent/Easter). We're currently working through 2 Corinthians.
- **Pastor's "Wednesday Encouragement" blog**, continues to be found on Trinity's Facebook page and on our church website. You can also have this devotion sent to your email each Wednesday.
- **Sunday School & Adult Bible Study** (begins at approximately 10:30 am) resume January 4th. Children ages 3 – 4th grade are invited to Sunday School which meets in the PreK room. 5th grade and up are invited to attend Adult Bible Study. We'll studying some of the minor prophets including Micah, Nahum, and Habakkuk.



- **No High School Youth Group in February.** We'll meet again on March 4th. Information about this summer's WELS International Youth Rally has been shared multiple times. Any questions? Please reach out to Pastor Luchterhand.
- **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. Please share Facebook posts that relate to school enrollment for the upcoming year.
- **2025 Statistics. A few highlights...**
 - Average weekly attendance: 203/wk.
 - Communicant Membership: 432
 - Baptized Membership: 508
 - Demographics of Trinity (every five years, churches are asked to provide age demographics of membership. Most birthdays of members are available to us. In instances where not available, best guesses were made. Use these as you wish; find where you fit; draw your own conclusions; praise God for every precious soul!

<u>Ages</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Ages</u>	<u>Total</u>
0-4	26	35-44	30
5-13	33	45-54	55
14-17	25	55-64	54
18-24	39	65-74	91
25-34	45	75-84	83
		85+	27

Church Council & School Board: Following January's congregational meeting, the following positions for councilmen were decided upon:

- President & Called Worker Care Coordinator: Matt Kock
- Vice President/School Board Chair: Ryan Piorkowski*
- Treasurer & Stewardship Coordinator: Rich Biller
- Secretary: Ray Christenson*
- Outreach Coordinator: Jake Smith*
- Inreach Coordinator: Jesse Anderson
- Property Management Coordinator: Jake Strasburg
- At Large: Nate Eckberg* & Chuck Nowicki

* indicates School Board Member



Flower Chart

The new flower chart for 2026 is available. If you would like to donate flowers during the year, you can sign up in the binder to the right of the picture window in the welcome center. There is the availability of two bouquets per week. Bouquets are \$30 each. Payments can be made in the box by the binder.



We wrapped up the month of January with our Visual Arts Fair, Open House, and Book Fair. What a fun way to showcase the talents God has given our students!

This month brings the end to our basketball season. It was a short season with a young team eager to learn the sport. We thank Mrs. Mildebrandt for sharing her talents with the students.

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

Tuesday, February 3

Home Basketball vs Zion, Rhinelander
4:30 pm

Thursday, February 5

Home Basketball vs St. Peter,
Schofield 4:30 pm

Friday, February 6

Trinity Seedlings 8:30-9:30 am

Monday, February 9

Home Basketball Scrimmage vs
Christ, Eagle River 4:30 pm

Thur-Fri, February 12-13

No School—Teacher InService

Wednesdays, February 4, 11, 18, 25

Midweek Chapel 8:15 am

Midweek Chapel: During the school year, the Trinity School children attend chapel on Wednesday mornings. This year, the students have voted to send their mission money to Northland Lutheran School's expansion project. We invite you attend with the children at 8:15 am.



LENT WORSHIP



Ash Wednesday, February 18
Services at 4:00 & 6:30 pm

Midweek Lent Services
(Wednesdays, February 25-March 25)
4:00 pm (one service only)



TUESDAY,
February 24
1:00-3:00 pm

Game Day! Everyone is invited to attend!



Book Club
Tuesday, February 17
12:00-1:00 pm

Questions? Contact Marcia Frederick.



Friday, February 6
8:30-9:30 am
in the school library
For children ages 1-3

Contact Sue Ziebart for details,
715-892-3634.



Wednesdays
9:30 am-2:00 pm

All are welcome to join us!