

# February Trinity Tidings

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Church Office: 630-231-1175

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*“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many.” 1 Corinthians 12:12–14*

When we read these verses, we often apply them to our own, individual congregation. Which is perfectly valid. Each congregation where God’s Word is rightly taught and His sacraments faithfully administered is made up of a collection of unique individuals, each with their own unique gifts. By working together (here Paul uses the imagery of body parts; hands, feet, eyes, ears, etc.), each individual member works with the others to create one whole. One member cannot work against another, or dismiss another, that destroys the whole body. This is always a good reminder for us members here in this congregation. We need each other!

But St. Paul is also speaking in a much grander sense. While his letter is addressed to one particular congregation and covers unique concerns within that congregation, his teachings are applicable to all faithful Christian congregations, even today. By the time of this particular letter, the Gospel of Christ had spread not only from Jerusalem to Corinth, but also to the entire area around the Mediterranean Sea. Christian churches were being established and growing even as far away as Rome. But, as is always the case, each congregation had its own struggles and concerns. Some were allowing false teachers to enter in and lead them astray, while others were dealing with internal divisions. No single congregation was without the need of help.

In order to keep all these churches properly aligned with Christ and His Word, Paul kept up ongoing communications with them. In doing so, he kept them unified. Since we have a number of these letters (epistles) preserved to this day, it is likely that they were shared among the various congregations.

So, the verses above, while they apply to the individual congregation, also apply to the larger church, especially among churches right here, within our own LCMS district. As brothers and sisters in Christ, united by doctrine, we are members of one body. Yes, each congregation is distinct and unique, yet we are all one body. And just as the *“eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’”* neither can we say to a sister congregation, *“you are different, we have no need for you.”* The truth is, we do need them.

The American church scene is vastly different from when it was back in the 50’s, 60’s and 70’s. All denominations have seen a marked decrease in membership. No longer are the days when we can exist as a “silo,” standing alone, disconnected from our other congregations. Bound together by the Holy Word of God, rightly professed in the Lutheran Confessions, we and our sister congregations are, as our Northern Illinois District President, Rev. Alan Buss says, “better together.”

As we look down the road, in this new year and the years to come, we need to look to our neighboring churches to see where they may be able to help us and, *more importantly, where we can help them!*

*(Pastor's Message Continued)*

How might this look? Well, let's say one congregation has a large and active youth group, while ours is smaller. Perhaps we send our youth to their group, and also invite their youth to our events. Or, maybe a congregation has stopped having mid-week services during Advent due to small numbers. We can invite them to ours, or we can combine and do one Wednesday evening here, and the following at their church. This is not "cheating" on our own congregation! This is working together for the benefit of all. This is being the Body of Christ—this is being "His Church."

"But Pastor," you may say, "I went to that church once and I didn't like the way they did this, or the way they did that..." That's okay. As stated, each congregation is unique and different. But different doesn't mean "wrong," and different doesn't mean "bad!" Members of their congregation may come here and not like how we do things. This is just the difference between being a hand or a foot, an eye or an ear. We can be different and still work together for each other's growth and benefit.

As we continue moving forward here at Trinity, we will be looking for opportunities to get to know our neighboring congregations better. We may invite them to our activities and we might be invited to theirs. We should be offering to help them and willing to let them help us. In doing so, we will all become "better together."

Pastor Gaede

## Trinity Youth at Heart is Going Bowling



Saturday, February 15th at 12:30 pm

Fox Bowl

1101 Butterfield Road, Wheaton



2 hours of bowling, pizza & pop

For only \$10 a person

Please RSVP to Tracy Kotke at [tlck@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tlck@sbcglobal.net) or 6303867646

The Fellowship Team appreciates all the wonderful homemade treats brought in on Sundays and for our Fellowship events, however, we ask that you take your plates/pan home with you. We have several unclaimed items in the kitchen.



## LADIES LUNCHEON

On January 18th fifteen Trinity Ladies attended a delicious Winter Luncheon hosted by Charlene Gaede, Sharon Garcia, Lois Kovarik, and Nancy Westra. The ladies organized the event and their hospitality was enjoyed by all. The group was then invited to the homes of Charlene and Lois for a continuation of fellowship, laughs, and even some homemade chocolate chip cookies!



A Bunco game day is being planned for March 15th for all ladies of the congregation. Please save the date!

Do you know of anyone that should be included in our **Prayer Chain**? If so, please contact Rita Dauber at 630-293-0518 or [rita.dauber3@gmail.com](mailto:rita.dauber3@gmail.com)





A few pictures of the fun time had by all at the “Trinity Youth at Heart” game night in January.

You too could be part of the fun. Sign up for the bowling party on February 15th. *(See article on page 2 for more info)*



**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
LCMS Stewardship Ministry  
February Newsletter Article**



***“Christ’s Life, and Love, and Light”***

Open our eyes Lord to see Your love’s intent,  
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height  
May thankfulness be days in service spent  
Reflection of Christ’s life, and love, and light. (*LSB 788*)

As stewards enter the month of February, it is fitting that we look at the last stanza of the stewardship hymn, “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (*LSB 788*). It is in these words that we see that the heart of stewardship is indeed love. Love has flowed from our Lord to us in the person and work of Jesus Christ. This love is then to flow from us to others. Being a conduit of love is really the central task of what it means to be a steward. The Lord entrusts us with His love that reconciles us to Himself, so that we might be stewards of the Gospel reconciliation that is freely given through us to those around us.

If we don’t see this love from God to us, then through us, to others, our eyes will be closed not just to the needs of those around us. They will also be closed to the very heart of the Gospel itself. This is why the hymn-ist prays that the Lord would “Open our eyes, Lord, to see Your love’s intent, To know with minds and hearts its depth and height.”

Only when we are immersed in God’s Holy Word, washed in Holy Baptism’s life-giving water and fed on the holy, precious, body and blood of Jesus in the Holy Supper, will the Spirit be able to open our eyes to see the Lord’s loving intent for us, and those we know and love. Sin blinds us. It makes us think that we are the center of our world, and our pleasure is the key.

In the Word, the Lord shows us the depth and height of His love. The depth of that love is what moved Him from His throne in heaven into our world. There He would don our human flesh, walk the dusty roads of Palestine, and set His face toward Jerusalem. Once there we get to see the height of His love, as He is elevated on a Roman cross to die a death that we deserve. But that would not be the end. He would be lowered into a tomb for three days. On that third day we then see the heights of love ascended to in His resurrection. This resurrection is already ours too!

The depth and height of this love poured out on us by the Holy Spirit then is distributed through us to others. Christ’s servant love is shown in our servant love. The hymn utters the prayer of every Christian steward:

May thankfulness be days in service spent  
Reflection of Christ’s life, and love, and light.

*(LCMS Newsletter Continued)*

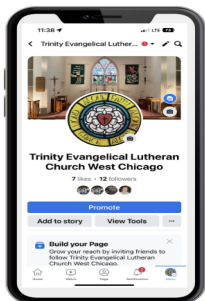
This is the task for which stewards were originally created. Bearing the image of creation and redemption, we reflect Christ’s love to those around us. The light of Christ shining through us to others is the true stewardship to which we are called. It takes place in our homes. It is lived out in our workplaces and classrooms. As we bear the life, love and light received in Word and Sacrament, we carry it out in service to our neighbor and for the glory of God!


Forgive us, Lord, when our stewardship of thankfulness is shallow or lacking! Fill us with Your life, love and light! Not just for us, but through us to those we know and love, that they may know Your life, love and light for them!



**Assistants....** If you aren’t available for your assigned Sunday, it is your responsibility to find a substitute.

<b>2025 SCHEDULE</b>	<b>Count Team</b>	<b>Worship Asst.</b>	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>Lay Reader</b>
2/2/2025	Laura Grobe, Sue Mennecke and Jeni Siekmann	Doug Schmidt	Jim Grobe	Sue Mennecke	Grace Greubel
2/9/2025	Nancy Westra and Ron Benes	Ron Benes	Dan Rakow	Nancy Westra	Ron Benes
2/16/2025	Greg & Sharon Garcia and Cheryl Perkis	Larry Kotke	Andrew Greubel	Sharon Garcia	Nancy Planek
2/23/2025	Jim and Kristi Horvath	Jim Grobe	Wayne Matejka	Eldra Rakow	Eldra Rakow



Find us on   
**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**West Chicago**

Have something you'd like to post?  
 Email [secretary@trinitywc.org](mailto:secretary@trinitywc.org) or  
[Darcy.L.lee@gmail.com](mailto:Darcy.L.lee@gmail.com)

**FYI—The current Trinity page has no comma in it’s name. If the picture associated with the account is of the outside of the church, you’re on the wrong page.**

# Food Drive for Hunger

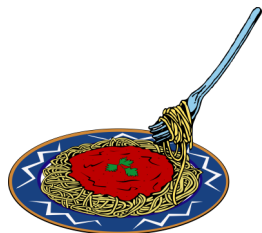


George and Josh Kotke are hosting a food drive from February 2<sup>nd</sup> through March 2<sup>nd</sup> as a project for the National Honor Society at the West Chicago High School. Please bring your donations of food and cooking supplies, such as flour, cooking oil, sugar, etc., to be donated to the West Chicago food bank. A box is in the narthex for any donations.

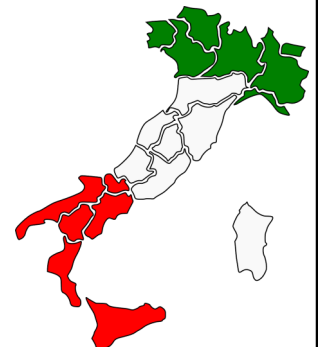
Thank you for your support!

Thank you to the Trinity Young At Heart participants (Tracy, George, Josh, and Timmy Kotke) for their dedicated service to the Lord by delivering the Advent Christmas food donations to the West Chicago Food Pantry. Donations were enhanced by a generous donation obtained by Sharon and Greg Garcia through Thrivent. The West Chicago community will benefit greatly due to everyone's overwhelming generosity.

"We love because He first loved us!"  
1John 4:19



Fellowship Team invites you to join us for an "Italian Dinner" on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. The food will be provided, desserts would be appreciated. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex so we can get a head count. **Please join us!**





February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31 Cynthia Macko	1
2	3	4	5 Lynda Benes	6	7	8
9 Kathy Bartels	10 Quinn Adams	11	12	13	14	15 Logan Bruce
16	17	18	19	20 Heather Greubel	21	22
23 Kevin Grobe	24 Eleanor Planek Karla Bruce Louis Blacksmith Paul Bartels	25	26	27 Sharon Garcia	28	1





February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29 Daniel Perkis	30 Darcy Lee	31	1 Kathy Bartels Ron Benes
2	3	4 Tyler Dameron	5	6	7 Travis Matejka	8 Doug Schmidt
9	10	11 Sue Matejka	12 David Zarate	13 Beverly Boorsma	14 Jamie Norusis Nancy Planek	15 Autumn Adams
16 Daniel Matejka Duncan Lee	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 John Siekmann	24	25	26	27	28	1



February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Laura and Jim Grobe	26	27	28 Tracy and Larry Kotke	1

# TRINITY CHURCH CALENDAR

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> 9:30am Divine Worship Service 9:30am Joyful Noise Sings 10:30am Fellowship 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting	<b>27</b> 7:00pm Elder's Meeting	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 9:30am Divine Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:30am Divine Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting 10:45pm Voter's Assembly	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:30pm Compassionate Friends (Fellowship Hall)	<b>15</b> 12:30 Youth Group Bowling
<b>16</b> 9:30am Divine Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting	<b>17</b> 7:00pm Call Committee	<b>18</b> 6:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7:00am Long Range Planning Committee	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> National Honor Society Food Drive 5:00pm Italian Dinner
<b>23</b> 9:30am Divine Worship Service 9:30am Joyful Noise Sings 10:30am Fellowship 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting	<b>24</b> 7:00pm Elder's Meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>