

BOND



Trinity Lutheran Church

523 4th Ave. SE, Jamestown, ND

December 2023 Vol. 20 Issue 12



And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

LUKE 2:10-11, ESV



Find information about the Christians in Action Advent thru Christmas Devotional on page 4!



The Light of the World



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Your First Bible



Advent is one of my most favorite seasons of the church year. There is just something so incredibly holy about waiting and watching for the birth of the

Christ child. But should we wait and watch for Jesus just one day a year or every single day of the year?

During my seminary days, some friends and I walked into our friend Louise's office during the month of March. As we walked into her office, my friend Mark noticed that she still had one nativity scene sitting out. He asked her, "Why do you still have a Nativity scene up?" Louise replied, "Should we celebrate Jesus one day a year or every day? I leave one up to remind me to celebrate and remember him all 365 days of the year.

As a college student, I started a Nativity collection so when I heard these words from my friend, I knew that I needed to keep one Nativity scene out each year. So every year, no matter what day or month, you will find a Nativity scene neatly displayed on the top of the bookcase in my living room. It is a reminder of the precious gift that comes in the birth of the Christ child; this one who comes as the light in the midst of the darkness and joy in the midst of despair.

During this Advent season, may you take the time to reflect, wait, and watch for this precious one born in a manger in Bethlehem. May you be reminded of the love that is born in this child and may you also continue to share Christ's love every single day of the year.

Deacon Tara



Family Advent Retreat
Sat. – Dec 2nd 10 AM – 4 PM
Atonement Lutheran Church

Through songs, crafts, games and worship, we will be learning all about the Advent season and how we can await and anticipate the birth of Jesus.

An Atonement sponsored All Partnership Event
ALL ARE WELCOME!
The event is Free Will Offering;
Lunch will be included.

Please register by following the link at
www.NDChristiansAct.org
under "Youth Ministries" "Events"

If you have questions contact
Deacon Tara 701-659-1226

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Trinity Lutheran Church

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Kristina Weber (320-2077)..... Senior Pastor
Susan Haukaas (320-1446)..... Associate Pastor
Wendy ThompsonPastoral Assistant
Tara Ulrich (659-1226)Director of Children, Youth
and Family Ministries
Dr. Anne Gassmann Trinity Choir Director
JoLynn Schumaker (320-8216) Director of Stepping
Stones
Lynette Berry (320-5707).....Faith Quest Administrator
Meggen Henke..... Administrative Assistant

Alternative Christmas Gifts



Once again, a Christmas tree in the Gathering Space will display compassionate choices for Christmas giving to benefit refugees and impoverished people. Between services the first 3 Sundays of December, congregants may select a decoration depicting their choice, writing the check to Trinity. All money given will be sent to ELCA Good Gifts.

The gifts chosen will never be returned--no need-to-know size or style preference. Choices include pigs, chicks, goats, honeybees, fruit trees, mosquito nets, Bibles, school supplies or tuition, food, water filters, hygiene kits, immunizations, and other healthcare. Choose from more than 50 gifts that grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives.



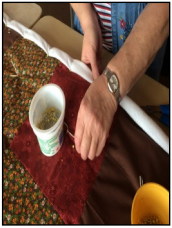
Young at Heart will be going to Pizza Ranch for lunch on Monday, December 4 at 11:30 am.

All seniors are welcome!



Please submit reports for the Annual Report no later than December 15. Thanks!

Quilting



Monday, December 11 will be the final quilting session for 2023, lasting from 9:30 to 3 p.m., but help is appreciated for whatever part of that timeframe fits your schedule. Bring a sack lunch if you are able to stay through noon. Lutheran

World Relief quilts are tied, rather than quilted, so no experience is needed. Come and join the fun!!

Quilt kits with 48 11-inch squares are available in the Gathering Space for anyone able to sew them together to make a 60" x 80" quilt top.



The church office will be closed on Monday, December 25. We wish you a Merry Christmas!

Christmas Food Baskets

Please deliver a Christmas Food Basket to:

Name: _____ Number of adults _____ children _____

Phone: _____ Address: _____

Submitted by: _____ Please return by December 13.



Christians in Action

Devotional Resource for Advent, Christmas, and the Day of Epiphany

Advent begins on December 3rd this year. Members of the partner congregations have written reflections for each day from December 3 (First Sunday of Advent) to January 6 (Epiphany.) Each congregation will make copies to distribute to members and friends. An electronic version of this daily devotional is also available on NDChristiansAct.org for anyone to read. Click the "RESOURCES" tab and choose "Advent Devotions".

Each week of Advent and the week of Christmas leading to Epiphany will have a theme.

Keep Awake! What are you watching for?
Do Not be Afraid! What do you need to stop fearing?
Prepare! What are you preparing for?
My Soul Magnifies the Lord! What are you praising God for?
Rejoice! What Are You Hopeful For?

Each day will include a Bible verse and a reflection.

May this devotional resource be a welcome companion for you throughout this season.

Worship on December 24 and December 25

Because December 24 falls on a Sunday this year, it is both the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. Among 9 ELCA congregations, there are 20 worship services planned between 8:30 am on Sunday, December 24 and 10:00 am on Monday, December 25. Everyone is welcome at any or all of these worship services as we anticipate and celebrate the birth of Christ.

Advent 4 Sunday, December 24

8:30 am Trinity, Jamestown
9:00 am Atonement and St. John's Jamestown Montpelier Zion, Kulm
10:30 am Emmanuel, Gackle Immanuel, Jamestown

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

10:45 am Trinity, Jamestown
2:30 pm St. John's, Jamestown
3:00 pm Atonement, Jamestown Trinity, Jamestown
4:00 pm Christ the King, Ellendale
4:30 pm Emmanuel, Gackle Immanuel and St. John's, Jamestown
5:00 pm English, Medina Montpelier Zion, Kulm
10:00 pm Trinity, Jamestown

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

10:00 am St. John's, Jamestown

Congregations participating in Christians in Action:

Atonement, Jamestown Christ the King, Ellendale Emmanuel, Gackle English, Medina
Montpelier, Montpelier St. John's, Jamestown Trinity, Jamestown Zion, Kulm

Story of Impact

On November 5th, members of Christ the King Lutheran in Ellendale gathered after worship to make cards for migrants who will be in detention centers during the Christmas season. Joan Hoffman coordinated the card making and had bilingual greetings prepared for the card makers. Cards will all be sent together for distribution. Fourteen people listened to Deb Elhard offer a description of the US-Mexican boarder from her recent trip to Tucson and Nogales. She described the for-profit detention centers that house migrants as well as groups that provide humanitarian support to people in need on their journey. Physical safety from violence and cartels are a major contributor to the decision to seek a new life. These people can claim asylum to escape the threats to their lives, but the process can be long and uncertain. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) coordinates the program that gives cards to immigrants. Sometimes families are split apart as they flee for their safety, sometimes parents don't survive the journey, and sometimes children flee alone. LIRS pays particular attention to providing a safe and welcoming environment for unaccompanied children detained in immigration centers. LIRS operates Welcome Centers to ensure that asylum seekers and refugees have access to local services and support.



“I’m a Lutheran”



Russ Geiszler

I was baptized and confirmed at Emmanuel Lutheran in Gackle. I finished college at Valley City State and married Gwen who studied at Jamestown College. We were married at St. John’s in Jamestown. I signed a contract with the Pingree School District to teach, but was drafted for service in Vietnam before the school year started, so I never set foot in a classroom. My daughter Amy was born when I was overseas. I remember getting the slip of paper with the news announcing her birth, along with a cigar. After my discharge, I became a contractor working in Jamestown. I had a partner and we built homes in Jamestown for over 40 years.

I pray for the church and pastors as well as my family. I am concerned about churches today- particularly that the young people aren’t coming. It would be great to have young people present in worship. I found my faith growing up in Gackle. I remember being about 13-14 years old when Alton Zinker came to town and spoke at church. He had a great influence on me at that time in my life. My favorite bible stories are ones with Jesus, although I don’t have one particular favorite. I’m a Lutheran because I was brought up in the church. My parents left no question that we were going to church on Sunday. I used to sing in the choir and participate in worship. I also married a Lutheran-so there was never a question about our ongoing participation.

I was brought up around music. My dad played in big bands-first in Detroit, and then around Gackle. He could play guitar, banjo, and string bass among others. He said that he wished that he could read music, but when I asked him how he could play all these instruments without being able to read music, he said, “you just play.”

It is not really surprising that I used to hunt. I enjoyed getting out and walking with the dog looking for pheasants. I don’t have dogs anymore. It is too hard to say goodbye to them and it is easier to be able to leave town now.

I have served on call committees at St. John’s-and that experience has changed dramatically over the years. My first call committee was probably in the 1980’s. I remember times when we interviewed seven pastors for one call. It was always tough to recommend a candidate and have them decline and then we started the process all over again.

I really don’t understand the fighting in Israel and Gaza right now. But I do remember that 50 years ago, just as I was finishing my Infantry training, we were on alert to deploy to the Middle East if the war at that time expanded. I remember that we were actually hoping to go to Vietnam instead, which we did. I remember seeing how people lived in Vietnam at that time-like they had been living for thousands of years.

I believe that there are better times ahead. I hope the world will change. My life is really good. I used to have more stress and struggles when I was working. I enjoy where I am right now.

UJ Care Packages

In October and November members of Jamestown churches brought leftover Halloween Candy and other treats to church offices. Then on Wednesday, November 15th, the 6th and 7th grade Confirmation Class took all those donations and assembled 300 Finals Week Care Packages for students at the University of Jamestown (in less than 30 minutes!). On Tuesday, November 28th those packages were delivered. Students from UJ gratefully helped unload the boxes. Now, during finals week, UJ students will be encouraged by your generosity. Please hold all college students in your prayers as they end this semester's work and head home for winter break.



Care Package Assembly!



Care Package Assembly!



Care Packages awaiting pick-up by UJ Students!



UJ Student Receiving Crew!



Trinity Member Kyra Vogel (and Teddy) receiving her care package!

Council Highlights—Monday, November 20, 2023

Present: Mary Craft, Shawn Banet, Nathan Steele, Jacob Limke, Chris Flann, Joni Zink, Pastor Susan Haukaas, Pastor Kristi Weber

Minutes: minutes of the October 16, 2023 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Financial report for October 2023 was received.

ACTION ITEMS

1) Approve Wedding Fees for 2024 and 2025

2) Approve Mission Giving Recipients:

\$1,500 to Salvation Army

50%* to A Moment of Freedom

50%* to ELCA World Hunger

(*50% of \$1,220 plus Mission Giving receipts for the remainder of 2023.)

Next regular Council meeting: Monday, December 18, at 7:00 pm in person

Next Executive team meeting Wednesday, December 13 at 12:30 pm on Zoom.

2023 COUNCIL MEMBERS (Telephone)

Greg Ulland, President 701-330-2015
Shawn Banet, Vice-President 701-739-8872
Chris Flann, Sec. 269-6756
Jacob Limke, Treasurer 701-212-3324

Mary Craft 252-9086
Eric Knodel 320-9968
Nathan Steele 269-2811
Amy Joseph 269-9344
Mindy Skunberg 269-2805
Joni Zink 320-1015

COMMITTEE/TEAM CHAIRS (Telephone)

Altar Guild.....Ardell Quigley (952-5062)
Boy Scouts..... Aaron Motter (952-3428)
Education..... 252-2841
Fine Arts.....252-2841
Library.....252-2841
Memorial.....Peg Beckman (252-1896)
Men of Trinity.....Randy Lebahn (952-8337)
Outreach.....Shirley Driessen (952-2519)
Parish Care.....Ruth Urdahl (952-1733)
Property & Management.....252-2841
Selma Alexander/Trinity Foundation.....Bob Toso (252-5027)
Stephen Ministry..... Wendy Thompson (251-2122)
Women of Trinity.....Ruth Urdahl (952-1733)
Worship.....252-2841
Youth.....Wynn Rasmussen (252-4890)
Church Office.....252-2841

Planning for Mission and Ministry in 2024

When you give to Trinity's General Fund, you support Trinity's ability to

- A) increase Trinity's Director of Music Ministries position from part-time to full-time
- B) fully fund Trinity's portion of the shared Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries position
- C) make ongoing mortgage payments
- D) continue the mission and ministry priorities of 2023, and
- E) save for replacing the cooling system (chiller) during the next two years

Are you able to add to what you have already been giving to Trinity's General Fund?

If you have been giving to Trinity's RENEW Campaign, will you be able to redirect the donations you were making to the RENEW Campaign to support Trinity's General Fund?

Your generosity allows Trinity to fulfill our purpose to connect with God and with each other and to share God's good news with all. Thank you to everyone who has returned a Response Form to help Trinity's Council plan for 2024. There is still time to respond and guide planning for the coming year.

**Financial Snapshot—Trinity’s General Fund
Through October 2023**

Year to Date Income	\$ 276,747
Year to Date Designated Income*	+\$ 51,645
Year to Date Total New Income	\$ 327,392
Transfer from Savings** for Designated Expenses	+\$ 213,144
Year to Date Total for Expenses	\$ 540,536
Year to Date Expenses (includes \$162,760 for 2 new boilers)	-\$ 557,424
Surplus (deficit)	\$ (16,888)

*Designated income includes funds received for specific bills paid through Trinity’s General Fund.

**Some funds received in previous years are designated for expenses (such as repairs paid by donations to the RENEW Campaign) Your generosity throughout the year helps continue Trinity’s mission and ministry.

RENEW Campaign Update



Original Goal:	\$440,000	Pledges and unpledged gifts to reach goal:
Received (through 11/20/23):	\$410,000	\$30,000

What will happen when Trinity reaches the \$440,000 goal for the RENEW campaign?

When \$21,000 in pledges are received, Trinity will be able to install LED lighting in high use areas of the building, support facilities operation at Trinity, and give generously to the Eastern North Dakota Synod.

Your additional gifts of \$9,000 that were not pledged will allow Trinity to replace ceilings on the 3rd floor that are no longer at risk of water damage thanks to the new roof that was installed over the education wing in 2022 as part of the RENEW campaign.

Worship on FM radio

If you are having trouble with the reception on 1400 AM for the radio broadcast of the 8:30 am Sunday worship, try 107.1 FM to get better reception.

Altar Flowers

- † 12/3/23 by Marlyn Swanson in memory of George
- † 12/10/23 by Hal & Deanna Weiser in honor of Landon's birthday
- † 12/17/23 by Barb Vilhauer & Warren Batsch in memory of Daisy & Burnett Brooks
- † 12/24/23 by Michele Well & Deb Holmes in memory of Val Klose
- † 12/31/23 by Kayla & Logan Hanson in honor of Eden Hanson's 2nd birthday

Altar Candles

- † 12/3/23 Marlyn Swanson in memory of George
- † 12/10/23 by Dave & Sheila Nelson in honor of Scott & Bridget's anniversary
- † 12/17/23 by Barb Vilhauer & Warren Batsch in memory of Daisy & Burnett Brooks
- † 12/24/23 by Steve & Ruth Brubakken in honor of Christmas
- † 12/31/23 by Kayla & Logan Hanson in honor of Eden Hanson's 2nd birthday

Radio

- † 12/3/23 by Marlyn Swanson in memory of George
- † 12/10/23 by Hal & Deanna Weiser in honor of Landon's birthday
- † 12/17/23 by Judy Brueske in honor of all Trinity volunteers
- † 12/24/23 by Emmy Opskar & Mark Rodlund—Merry Christmas
- † 12/31/23 by Dale & Wendy Thompson

November worship attendance

In person at 8:30 a.m.

November 5 79
November 12 60
November 19 82
November 26 48

In person at 10:45 a.m.

November 5 109
November 12 55
November 19 68
November 26 37

YouTube views

Sunday 10:45 a.m.

November 5 78
November 12 95
November 19 28
November 26 30



Char Broten: Judy Brueske, Candice Dempsey, Frank & Marvel Fischer

Helen Doeling: Frank & Marvel Fischer, Pam & Terry Hansen, Colleen & Randy Lebahn, Ardell Quigley, Peg & Jon Schlenker, Alaine & Bob Toso, Ruth & Ken Urdahl

Joe Eversvik: Jennifer Sherman-Mack

Jim Fritz: Peg & Jon Schlenker, Ruth & Ken Urdahl

Grace Hansen: Dale & Jan Andrud, Colleen & Randy Lebahn

Carrie Kraft: Peg & Jon Schlenker

David Orr: Karon Orr

Ellen Orr: Karon Orr



DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Deacon Tara has office hours at Trinity on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00am to 4:00pm.					1 Office Closed 8:45am Open Play	2 10:00am Intergenerational Advent Retreat—Atonement Lutheran
3 8:30am Worship with Communion 9:30am Faith Quest 10:45am Worship with Communion	4 11:30 Young at Heart -Pizza Ranch 4:15pm Celebration Rehearsal 5:30pm Open Play 5:30pm Nominating Committee 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Boy Scouts	5 10:00am Staff Meeting –Atonement 2:30pm Text Study	6 8:45am Open Play 2:00pm Ave Maria 3:30pm 6th&7th Grade Confirmation— St. John's 6:30pm Servant Event 8th & 9th Grade 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	7 9:30am Altar Guild 12:00pm Jamestown Ministerial 7:00pm Wine & the Word	8 Office Closed 8:45am Open Play	9
10 8:30am Worship 9:30am Faith Quest 10:45am Worship 2:00pm Ave Maria	11 9:30am Quilting 10:00am Jamestown Conference 4:15pm Celebration Rehearsal 5:30pm Open Play 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Boy Scouts	12 10:00am Staff Meeting- Trinity 2:30pm Text Study 7:00pm Troop Parent Meeting	13 3:30pm 6th&7th Grade Confirmation— St. John's 6:30pm 8th Grade Confirmation 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	14	15 Office Closed	16
17 8:30am Worship with Communion 9:30am Faith Quest 10:45am Worship/Faith Quest Christmas Program	18 4:15pm Celebration Rehearsal 5:30pm Open Play 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Congregational Council	19 8:00am Men of Trinity 10:00am Staff Meeting- Atonement 2:30pm Text Study	20 3:30pm 6th&7th Grade Confirmation— St. John's 6:30pm 8th Grade Confirmation 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	21 11:00am Ave Maria	22 Office Closed School Break Begins	23
24 Christmas Eve 8:30am Worship 10:45am Christmas Eve Worship 3:00pm Christmas Eve Worship 10:00pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 Christmas Day Office Closed  <i>Merry Christmas!</i>	26 2:30pm Text Study	27 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	28	29 Office Closed	30
31 New Year's Eve 8:30am Worship 10:45am Worship 3:00pm Edgewood Communion No Faith Quest	1 New Year's Day Office Closed		No Confirmation			

Trinity Lutheran Church
523 4th Ave SE
Jamestown, ND 58401
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Permit No. 128
Jamestown, ND

Trinity's Purpose:

Connect with God and with each other.
Share God's good news with all.



Sundays 8:30 am (radio and in person)

Sundays 10:45 am (in person and online)

Faith Quest Christmas Program

December 17—10:45am Worship Service

Christmas Eve Worship

8:30am 4th Sunday in Advent worship

10:45am, 3:00pm & 10:00pm Christmas Eve services